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These could potentially raise scale of burden on Centre and other States

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THRILLING WIN

Paolini outlasts Vekic, meets Krejcikova

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Cauvery panel asks Karnataka to ensure flow of water for T.N.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) on Thursday asked Karnataka to ensure the flow of 11,500 cusecs of water at Biligundlu every day till July 31 to supply water for Tamil Nadu.

Karnataka had cited deficit water flow, and urged the committee to defer any decision till July 25.

According to a note from the office of Karnataka Deputy Chief Minster and Water Resources Minister D.K. Shivakumar, the State informed the CWRC that between June 1 and July 9, the inflow into four reservoirs in Karnataka was 41.651 tmcft, a 28.71% deficit from the average inflow in previous years.

The total storage in four reservoirs in Karnataka currently stands at 58.66 tmcft, while the total storage in three reservoirs in Tamil Nadu is 24.705 tmcft.

It was also pointed out that 4.905 tmcft of water from Mettur and 0.618 tmcft from the Bhavani (a total of 5.542 tmcft) was being released into the river.

Based on the data, the note said, Karnataka argued that it was better to wait till July 25 before any decision on water release is taken.

The note said Tamil Nadu argued that Karnataka had not maintained the flow of water into the river for environmental purposes between February and May. The current year is being treated as a normal year and inflow into the river also remains normal. Hence, the water flow at Biligundlu should be what the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal awarded and confirmed by the Supreme Court, it argued.

Mr. Shivakumar told presspersons in Bengaluru that the available water was inadequate for Karnataka.

Sharing water

The Cauvery Water Regulation Committee has asked Karnataka to ensure flow of 11,500 cusecs at Biligundlu every day till July 31

KARNATAKA'S CASE

- Between June 1 and July 9, the total inflow into four reservoirs in Karnataka was 41.651 tmcft, which is a 28.71% deficit from the average inflow in previous years
- The total storage in four reservoirs in Karnataka currently stands at 58.66 tmcft, while the total storage in three reservoirs in Tamil Nadu is 24.705 tmcft.

T.N.'S ARGUMENT

- Karnataka had not maintained the flow of water into the river for environmental purposes between February and May
- Till now, no release of water has been made from the Tamil Nadu reservoirs for irrigation

NEET counselling from July third week, says govt.

SC adjourns hearing to July 18; govt. says candidatures of students found to be beneficiaries of any malpractices will be cancelled at any stage during the counselling process or even afterwards

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Union government has said that counselling for eligible NEET-UG candidates will be conducted in four rounds from the third week of July even as the Supreme Court on Thursday deferred the hearing of the case to July 18. The government, in its latest affidavit, has banked on an IIT-Madras report to count out "mass malpractice" in the exam.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud accepted the request of lawyers to adjourn the hearing. Advocates Mathew J. Nedumpara and Charu Mathur, appearing for the petitioners, said the Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA) had filed their counter-affidavits late on Wednesday, leaving little time for them to go through the documents.

Chief Justice Chandrachud informed the assembled lawyers that the CBI has already filed a status report. During the previous hearing on July 8, the top court orally remarked that the sanctity of NEET was compromised beyond doubt. Despite this, the Chief Justice had expressed reluctance to order a retest. The top judge reasoned that such a step would be an "extreme last resort".

The Centre said that candidatures of students found to be beneficiaries of any malpractices would be cancelled at any stage during the counselling process or even afterwards. It said the counselling process could be manoeuvred around such cancellations.

CONTINUED ON
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CAN OF WORMS
» PAGE 12

A student holds a placard demanding reconducting of NEET-UG, outside the Supreme Court on Thursday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

CBI arrests key accused in NEET paper leak case

PATNA
The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday arrested one of the key accused in the NEET-UG paper leak case. Rakesh Ranjan alias Rocky allegedly ran a racket involved in leaking the exam papers. » PAGE 16

NEARBY

'Adjustment politics led to tepid show'

BENGALURU
"Adjustment politics" led to the tepid performance by the Congress in the Lok Sabha elections in Karnataka, the AICC fact-finding committee was informed on Thursday. » Page 8

Maximum age for admission to class 1 fixed at 8

BENGALURU
The Karnataka government has fixed the maximum age limit for school enrolment as six years for LKG, seven years for UKG, and eight years for class 1. » Page 2

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

I'm in good shape and with a decent draw, I can make it

The primary goal will be the team event, where we want to win the first match; once you win it, you are in the quarterfinal and then anything can happen. Then we are in a great spot, funding will be better, people will be taken care of and players don't have to worry. That is my goal and that is what I am looking at

Trailblazer: Sharath, who kickstarted the Indian table tennis revolution, says Paris 2024 will be his last Olympics. K. MURALI KUMAR

INTERVIEW

SHARATH KAMAL

Amol Karhadkar

He won his first Commonwealth Games gold medal in 2004. He made his Olympic debut later that year. Since then, for two decades, A. Sharath Kamal – the lanky paddler from Chennai – has been the flagbearer of Indian table tennis all over the globe. Come July 26, and Sharath - in his fifth Olympic appearance - will be the Indian Olympic contingent's flag-bearer at the opening ceremony.

Set to turn 42, Sharath isn't thrilled as much with his new title as he is with having achieved what he set out to do a long time ago. He sits down for a long chat, spelling out everything around Paris and beyond. Excerpts:

What matters more for Sharath? Playing your fifth Olympics or being India's flag-bearer?

For me, what matters most in this Olympic Games - the main goal that I have been looking forward for the last eight years or so, even more - was the team qualifying. So when we qualified for the team event, I didn't care about if I played singles or mixed. Qualifying as a team is an important aspect for table tennis becoming much more popular. To add to that, the flag-bearer news was phenomenal. Because I still remember 2008 and Rathore was the flag-bearer. He called me by his side and he said 'you stay here'. Just standing beside him, I felt so proud and I was thinking how proud he must have been, people who know him, like the emotions that he would have while entering the stadium into holding the flag. I thought wow, such a lucky man. He, of course, deserved it. And now this time on the 26th of July, I will have the same honour.

It took me time to believe that it's not a prank, that it's something serious. But in the end, after a couple of days, I saw how the whole table tennis fraternity - not just in India but the whole world - showed its love and people were asking 'you know that you are the flag-bearer?' That was nice. That was the cherry on the top.

Do you recall a moment when you particularly made up your mind that qualifying as a team has to be the next big goal for Indian table tennis?

Yes. When we lost out on qualification in 2020. We had the ranking, but we failed to make itin the qualification tournament. And that loss was quite heavy, at least for me. I felt like I didn't shoulder the responsibility well enough for the team. Those self-doubts were there and that was when it hit me. 'What next after the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham?' That was the question. 'To go in for (Olympic) singles, Last 16, quarterfinal? Fantastic, very good. But apart from Sharath Kamal, who benefits from that?' The sport is much bigger than me or a couple of players. Team qualification can raise the profile of the game. I had been there for singles, so I had to set my sights on the bigger picture. To qualify as a team, I have to drive, not just myself, but also the youngsters. I remember there was a phone call. I was driving for practice and Sathiyan called me up from France. We discussed our rankings are going down, we needed to make sure that one is in the top 40 and the other one is around 60-70. I said the first option is yours, the second option is mine.

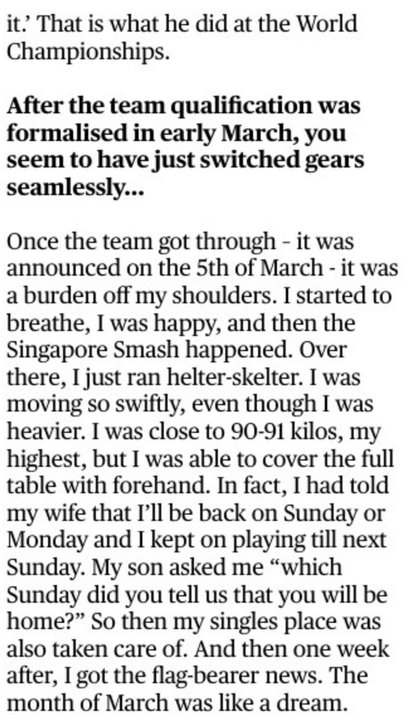
Then we also brought in Chris (Pfeiffer, their coach) to help Manav, Manush, and myself. Harmeet also got his share. All of us had a part to play and we kept trying. The most important thing I kept telling all of them was, 'guys, we need to do it as a team and if we do it as a team, we will qualify in singles. We don't need to worry about anything else. The internal competition doesn't come in at all. We don't need to fight each other, we collectively fight, and this is all'. Harmeet was completely tuned for that. His main goal by December-January for the team to qualify, even though his ranking was so high. He would have made it for singles and everything. He channelised everything into the team goal, so I kept telling him, 'I am there to support you now. I'm right behind you. You drive it.' That is what he did at the World Championships.

After the team qualification was formalised in early March, you seem to have just switched gears seamlessly...

Once the team got through - it was announced on the 5th of March - it was a burden off my shoulders. I started to breathe, I was happy, and then the Singapore Smash happened. Over there, I just ran helter-skelter. I was moving so swiftly, even though I was heavier. I was close to 90-91 kilos, my highest, but I was able to cover the full table with forehand. In fact, I had told my wife that I'll be back on Sunday or Monday and I kept on playing till next Sunday. My son asked me "which Sunday did you tell us that you will be home?" So then my singles place was also taken care of. And then one week after, I got the flag-bearer news. The month of March was like a dream.

What does it mean for women's team to qualify, especially considering Manika Batra is yet to peak in her career?

It is Manika's third Olympics. As a woman, I think she is the first Indian table tennis player to do so. She has equalled - if not surpassed - some of the top male athletes in that respect. She is there at the front to lead Sreeja Akula, Archana Kamath and Ayhika's (Mukherjee, the reserve), all of whom are playing their first Olympic games. And Ayhika is the oldest of the lot. So I am sure there is still a long way to go for women's table tennis.



What can we expect in Paris?

This is going to be my last Olympic Games.

Are you sure? I am not, since we had a similar conversation ahead of Tokyo...

I am sure because I am having more fun in providing for the table tennis players in terms of an administrator or a high performance director. With the image and the connections that I have, I should be able to put a system in place. Kamlesh sir (Mehta, two-time Olympian who is the TTFI secretary general) is trying. But if I can join and put those things in place, have a few national training centers, it will greatly benefit Indian table tennis. India is very big country. You should have zonal centres. For that you need a lot of funding, but I'm sure that we can raise the funds with government and private support, so for me personally, I feel I can get those resources into the sport. If I am still playing, I can't be doing that.

Is this the most relaxed you have been going into an Olympics?

Certainly. For the last four Olympics, I qualified four or, at most, six weeks earlier. So all the energy was consumed on just qualifying for Olympics. This is the first time due to team qualification, we have almost five months to prepare for the Olympic Games. And I am making the best of it.

> For me, what matters most in this Olympic Games — the main goal that I have been looking forward for the last eight years or so, even more — was the team qualifying

How have you prepared for Paris?

In March, I sat down with my personal team, coach Rajath (Kamal, younger brother), Ramji Srinivasan, Chris, and everyone else. When they saw the plan, I needed downtime in March, so I spent two weeks catching up with friends and family. By the end of March, I started with diet regime. I was 92 kilos. I told the nutritionist I needed to lose five to six kilos gradually because I want to stabilise every kilo that I lose. Then we started doing fitness, two sessions a day and then gradually increased the playing workload. Then we went to Europe. Four weeks there, six to seven hours of table tennis on a daily basis. I hadn't done it for a long time. Came back and finished my other commitments before heading to Bengaluru for the team camp and entering the preparatory tournaments.

For the first time, you have had time to set goals for the Olympics. What is it that you want to achieve?

In Paris, of course you start with singles. I played a round of 32. That's been my best, in Tokyo and Beijing. I would like to better that. I am in good shape and with a decent draw, I think I can make it. If I can recreate the Singapore Smash, I'd be very, very happy. But the primary goal will be the team event, where we want to win the first match. We want to win the round of 16. Once you win it, you are in the quarterfinal and then anything can happen. God forbid, but if you lose, still Indian table tennis has reached the quarterfinals of the Olympic Games. Then we are in a great spot.

Funding will be better. People will be taken care of. Players don't have to worry. So that is my goal. That is what I am looking at.

Will we see you playing post Paris?

I doubt if I will be playing the team championship. I will play another year, but I might not go for all the tournaments. I might not be training as much. To be away from the family for two months at a stretch is tough for me, tougher for the family.

Aparna Vastarey dead

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Aparna Vastarey FILE PHOTO

Aparna Vastarey, 57, actor, television presenter and anchor, passed away on Thursday evening in Bengaluru. She was battling lung cancer, according to the family.

For Bengalureans travelling by Namma Metro, she was a familiar voice as the Kannada announcer since 2014.

Aparna had made her film debut in 1984 with Puttanna Kanagal's last film *Masanada Hoovu*. A popular face on Kannada television, she had presented various shows that were aired on DD Chandana in the 1990s and was a programme anchor of scores of public functions.

Aparna had acted in serials such as *Moodala Mane* and *Mukta* on television channels. In 2013, she appeared as a contestant in the first season of the Kannada reality television show Bigg Boss. Since 2015, she has been appearing in the comedy television show, *Majaa Talkies*.

The late actor is survived by her husband, Nagaraj Vastarey, a Kannada writer and architect.

Maximum age for admission to class 1 fixed at 8 years

State govt. also fixes maximum age limit for enrolment as six years for LKG, seven years for UKG

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has fixed the maximum age limit for school enrolment as six years for LKG, seven years for UKG, and eight years for class 1. Following its earlier amended order, the State government has started preparations to implement the age limit for enrolling children who have compulsory completed six years for class 1 as on June 1 from the academic year 2025-26.

Earlier, the government had fixed only the minimum age limit for enrolment of school children as four years and maximum five years for LKG, UKG, and class 1. The Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act-2009 (RTE Act-2009) and the Rules, 2012, prescribes the age limit for enrolling a child to class 1 as having compulsorily completed six years as on June 1. The National Education Policy (NEP-2020) has also mandated that the minimum age limit for admission to class 1 should be six years as on June 1.

Earlier, the government had fixed only the minimum age limit for enrolment of schoolchildren as four years and maximum five years for LKG, UKG, and class 1. FILE PHOTO

Following the Union Education Ministry's order, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) made it mandatory from the 2023-24 academic year and issued an order on July 26, 2022, in this regard. However, it created confusion and anxiety among parents, after which the Karnataka government gave a relaxation for two academic years.

An amended order issued by DSEL on November 15, 2022, stating that the six-year age completion rule will be implemented from 2025-26 academic year. According to this rule, the minimum age of a child to be enrolled for LKG is four years, UKG is five years, and class 1 is six years with effect from the academic year 2023-24. However, the maximum age was not fixed.

Now, the DSEL has decided to implement this rules from the next academic year after the Commissioner of Public Instruction had submitted a proposal to the government about the maximum age limit.

"Since the revision of the maximum age limit can also reduce the number of dropout children, it is necessary to relax and revise the maximum age criteria as the minimum age limit has already been fixed for the enrolment of children for LKG, UKG, and class 1," B.B. Cauvery, Commissioner of Public Instruction, had said in the proposal.

The government approved the proposal, after which it has been ordered that the maximum age limits for admission to LKG, UKG, and class 1, according to which, any child enrolled in LKG at four years in 2023-24 will be eligible for admission to class 1 in 2025-26.

HC notice to State and Centre on PIL plea challenging framing of SEP ignoring NEP-2020

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday ordered the issue of notice to the State and Central governments on a PIL petition questioning the legality of the change in the decision of the State to come out with its own education policy by completely ignoring the National Education Police (NEP)-2020, which was implemented in Karnataka from the academic year 2021-2022.

A Division Bench passed the order on the petition filed by Bengaluru-based advocates Girish Bharadwaj and Ananda Murthy.

The State government in November 2023, formed a commission to frame the State Education Policy (SEP) without assigning any reason as there is not even a reference to the NEP in the terms and conditions given to the commission to frame the SEP, argued advocate Aruna Shyam for the petitioners.

There has been no change in any circumstance in the State since the introduction of the NEP-2020 at UG and PG levels except for the change in the political party in power after May 2023, it has been pointed out in the petition. Hence, the petitioners have claimed that the decision to frame the SEP by completely ignoring the earlier decision of the State government to implement the NEP in a phased manner, is nothing but a "politically motivated" decision.

The NEP-2020 was introduced to have a 'One nation, one education policy' for the benefit of the student community as it would be easy for them to compete at the national level when they study in a uniform education system, the petitioners contended.

It was contended in the petition that the decision of the State government to withdraw NEP-2020 and to implement the SEP from the next academic year without conducting proper research and without any discussions and deliberation with the stakeholders will result in irreparable damage to the career of the students, who were already mentally prepared for NEP prescribed flexible study pattern.

INBRIEF

NSDC and VTU sign MoU for skill development programme

With an aim to introduce cutting-edge skill programmes, bridging the gap between academia and industry, and to revolutionise higher education and skill development in the country, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Thursday. The collaboration marks a significant step towards strengthening the higher education landscape by integrating skill development programmes tailored to meet the demands of the job market.

Canara Bank pays ₹1,838 cr. as dividend to Govt. of India

Canara Bank on Wednesday handed over a dividend cheque of ₹1,838 crore for the financial year 2023-24 to the Government of India. Managing Director and CEO of Canara Bank K. Satyanarayana Raju handed over the cheque to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Prashant Kumar Goyal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, GoI; and the Executive Directors of Canara Bank Debashish Mukherjee, Ashok Chandra, Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia, Bhavendra Kumar; and Chief General Manager Delhi Rajesh Kumar Singh were present.

Award presented

Prakashnath Swamiji, Managing Director of BGS and SJB Group of Institutions and Hospitals, has been awarded 'The DEfactoEd Innovative Leader Award' by Defacto Learning Solutions Ltd, U.K. government Learning provider. According to a release, the award was presented in recognition of his achievements and dedication to advancing education in India at the award presentation held at the House of Lords, Westminster, on July 5.

Dementia India Alliance to hold workshop tomorrow

Dementia India Alliance will organise a workshop for principals and heads of departments of psychology, sociology, social work, nursing, and allied healthcare courses on the "Role of students and educational institutions in creating dementia driendly communities" on July 13. The workshop will be held at the Centre for Brain Research, Indian Institute of Science, at 3 p.m.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated July 12, we have a story on a Bengaluru-based start-up, CircleChess, trying to bridge the gap between technology and the sport by creating a personalised AI chess coach. The product helps players to not only learn the game but also improve their skills.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (July 12, Friday), the following articles are available:

- The way forward for investments in the EV Space **bit.ly/evspaceinindia**
- Weight loss is among the 'best routes to diabetes remission' **bit.ly/diabetesremissionscience**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Bengaluru records third suspected dengue death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city has recorded the third suspected dengue death, even as the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike is conducting an audit to corroborate if the patient's death was due to dengue.

If confirmed, the death toll due for dengue in the city touches three.

Conduct audit

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Special Commissioner (Health) Suralkar Vikas Kishor said: "Around two days ago, a 23-year-man died of suspected dengue and we have to now conduct the audit to confirm the same."

He said the audit on the second suspect death has now confirmed that the 11-year-old child succumbed to dengue.

Lokayukta officials raid 11 officials in State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Lokayukta officials on Thursday conducted search operations across the State in connection with 11 disproportionate asset cases registered against government officers in Belagavi, Davangere, Dharwad, Chitradurga, Mandya, Kolar, Mysuru, Hassan, and Kalaburagi districts.

Several teams of officials simultaneously conducted searches at the residences and offices of the relatives of the accused government officers at more than 56 places.

Assets seized

According to a press release, the officials raided Basavaraj Maggi, Revenue Officer, Mahadevapura Division, BBMP, at 11 places and seized 15 sites, two houses, 32.2 acres of agricultural land along with ₹2.3 lakh cash, ₹59.4 lakh worth of ornaments and ₹61.7 lakh worth of 586 casino coins. The total value is estimated to be ₹3.3 crore.

Lokayukta police officials during the raid on the residence of Basavaraj Maggi, Assistant Commissioner of BBMP, in Kalaburagi on Thursday. ARUN KULKARNI

Officials raided four places belonging to Mahadeva Bannur, AEE, Panchayath Raj Engineer Division, Belagavi. The officials seized three houses estimated to be around ₹1.05 crore along with ₹1.8 lakh cash, ₹20 lakh worth of gold ornaments and vehicles worth ₹7.5 lakh.

During the raids on D.H. Umesh, Executive Engineer (E), KPTCL, Chikkamagaluru, officials searched five places. They seized four sites, four houses, and two acres of agricultural land worth ₹4.8 crore, along with ₹40 lakh worth of gold ornaments and ₹15 lakh worth of vehicles. The total value of the seized vehicles was worth ₹5.3 crore.

Searches on M.S. Prabhakar, AEE (E), Bescom Vigilance Police Station, Davangere district revealed two sites, two houses, 4.33 acres of agricultural land total worth ₹ 1.5 crore, in addition to ₹3 lakh cash, ₹30 lakh worth ornaments, ₹50,000 worth of vehicles, ₹10 lakh worth household articles. The total value is estimated to be around ₹2.01 crore.

During raids in seven places related to Shekhar Gowda Hanumgowda Kuradagi, Project Director, Nirmithi Kendra, Belagavi, officials seized five sites, four houses, 83 acres of agricultural land along with cash ₹1.6 lakh, gold ornaments worth ₹16.9 lakh, vehicles worth ₹8.3 lakh, totally worth ₹7.8 crore.

Searches conducted in four places related to M. Raveendra, Chief Engineer (rtd), Public Works Department, resulted in the seizure of four sites, six houses, 49.15 acres of agricultural land, along with cash ₹37,500, ₹83 lakh worth of gold ornaments, ₹1 crore worth of vehicles, ₹50 lakh worth of household articles. The total value is estimated to be around ₹5.7 crore.

Eligibility marks for architecture courses reduced to 45%

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Due to the reduction in eligibility marks for architecture courses from 50% to 45%, an opportunity has been provided for candidates seeking admission to apply online for UGCET until July 13, 2024.

H. Prasanna, executive director, Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), stated in a press release on Thursday that this opportunity is available to those who have secured 45% marks in II PU and attained eligibility in the National Aptitude Test in Architecture.

Candidates who apply now should submit their marks details and a copy of the application to KEA by July 15. Those who obtained National Aptitude Test in Architecture eligibility before July 8 should also submit their marks details by July 15, according to the release.

Raman Research Institute scientists make breakthrough in cybersecurity

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a breakthrough in cybersecurity, scientists at the Raman Research Institute (RRI) have created a new, user-friendly way to generate truly unpredictable random numbers, which is crucial for stronger encryption in quantum communications. RRI said this advancement could revolutionise how we protect sensitive data in the future.

"The security of quantum communications relies on inherent randomness as a seed, such as randomness in measurement bases chosen by sender and receiver. This prevents malicious agents from deciphering secure information through prior knowledge of such choice of bases," RRI said.

"We have successfully generated random numbers using temporal correlations certified by the violation of the Leggett Garg Inequality (LGI). These are temporal analogues of the popularly known Bell inequalities -- a set of mathematical expressions that compare the predictions of quantum mechanics with those of classical physics. Our experimental setup ensures a loophole-free violation of LGI, providing an additional advantage of generating loophole-free randomness," said Professor Urbasi Sinha, faculty at RRI and the corresponding author of the paper published in the Physical Review Letters.

The Raman Research Institute in Bengaluru. Scientists have created a way to generate unpredictable random numbers, which is crucial for stronger encryption in quantum communications. FILE PHOTO

Password protection

In today's digital world, where we rely heavily on technology, strong passwords are vital for everyone's safety. This new method offers the enhanced protection we need in our lives, by using truly random numbers to generate keys that will be used to encrypt passwords, researchers noted.

"It is resilient against attacks on the initial state, which is typically the most vulnerable point in this scheme. The certified random numbers are important because any predictability of these numbers can compromise the entire security system, making it vulnerable to attacks. These numbers ensure the robustness of encryption, authentication and data integrity processes and maintain trust and security in digital interactions," added Sinha.

There are several advantages in generating certified random numbers using this method. "These include the creation of strongly protected passwords, enhanced account security by resisting brute-force attacks, ensuring uniqueness, integrity thereby preventing forgery and token generation with multi-factor authentication, adding a crucial security layer in this vulnerable cyber world," said Dr Debashis Saha, faculty, IISER Thiruvananthapuram and co-author of the study. In the photonic experiment led by RRI, the team replaced this conventional two-particle system with a single-particle setup.

The experiment generated over 9,00,000 random bits at a rate of nearly 4,000 bits/second. This high random number generation can help in using these numbers towards various applications that require rapid randomness, RRI said.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JUL. 12		
RISE	06:00	SET 18:50
RISE	11:05	SET 23:21
SATURDAY, JUL. 13		
RISE	06:01	SET 18:50
RISE	11:50	SET 23:55
SUNDAY, JUL. 14		
RISE	06:01	SET 18:50
RISE	12:35	SET 00:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	24
Mysuru	30	21
Bengaluru	30	21

Bengaluru Today
27°C Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
26°C The weather will be comfortable with cloudy sky. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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Weight loss is among the 'best routes to diabetes remission'

Advancements in hypoglycemic drugs, lifestyle management through bariatric surgery, reduced caloric food intake, use of intestinal hormones, and drugs to reduce body weight have paved the way for the possibility of remission of diabetes. Successful remission would relieve healthcare systems

Vijay Viswanathan
Reshma Mirshad

Diabetes remission requires continuous monitoring, as remission is just a state where diabetes is not currently present, but the risk of recurrence remains high. GETTY IMAGES

Several organisations across the world have accepted the term 'Remission of Diabetes'. We now know that diabetes is a vascular disease requiring lifelong management. Most of us are also aware that the cost of treating diabetes is escalating, and hence society can no longer afford to overlook the pandemic of this lifestyle disease. Therefore, understanding T2DM (type 2 diabetes mellitus) remission becomes more of a priority.

Advancements in hypoglycemic drugs, lifestyle management through bariatric surgery, reduced caloric food intake, use of intestinal hormones, and drugs to reduce body weight have paved the way for the possibility of remission of diabetes. There is no doubt that successful diabetes remission of T2DM would relieve healthcare systems and ease the increasingly unsustainable socio-economic burden.

Understanding diabetes remission

The major pathological causes of diabetes are insulin resistance in skeletal muscles, liver, and pancreas caused by defective glucose transporters or beta cell dysfunction due to oxidative stress and high fatty acid content. According to the American Diabetes Association, diabetes remission refers to the reduction or normalisation of glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c of under 6.5%) for at least 3 months after cessation of any glucose-lowering drugs. Diabetes remission is not to be considered a cure for the disease; it just means the disease is not actively progressing.

Hence, patients in the remission phase no longer show symptoms or require medications.

Key strategies for remission

One of the most effective methods for achieving diabetes remission is weight loss. The diabetes remission clinical trial (DiRECT) study showed that about 46% of type 2 diabetes patients (with diabetes for less than 6 years and not on insulin) reached remission in 12 months with a structured weight management programme. People with diabetes who achieved a weight loss reduction of over 10 to 15 kg showed diabetes remission. People with diabetes for more than 10 years are less likely to achieve remission. The findings of a meta-analysis revealed that T2DM patients with a BMI less than 35 kg/m ^{2} , benefited from bariatric surgery to achieve better remission and good glycaemic control. The rate of diabetes remission in patients who have undergone barbaric surgery is 56.6%.

The other key factor is lifestyle intervention. Dietary changes such as low-calorie and low-carbohydrate diets showed effective weight loss, leading to diabetes remission, by reducing the fat in the liver and pancreas. A weight loss of up to 12 kg in 2 years was reported in a non-randomised study.

There are, of course, plenty of medical interventions. The latest hypoglycemic drugs not only manage glycaemic control but also help in weight reduction. REMIT-sita (sitagliptin, metformin, and glargine) and REMIT-dapa (dapagliflozin, metformin, and glargine) studies showed greater efficacy in diabetes remission in patients with a short duration of diabetes, HbA1c under 7.5, and in the absence of comorbidities or diabetic complications. Drugs like GLP1-RA and tirzepatide (a dual agonist of GLP1 and GIP) help in 10-15% weight reduction and are efficient in diabetes remission.

Let's remember that diabetes remission requires continuous monitoring, as remission is just a state where diabetes is not currently present, but the risk of recurrence remains high. Diabetes can recur when weight is gained or due to stress or the decline in beta cell function and drugs that promote high blood sugar, like glucocorticoids and certain antipsychotic agents. Testing of HbA1c or another measure of glycaemic control should be performed annually.

A new paradigm in diabetes care

The role of healthcare providers is to develop personalised care depending on the patient's health status, preferences,

> About 46% of type 2 diabetes patients (diabetes for less than 6 years and not on insulin) reached remission in 12 months with a weight management program

and goals. Educating the patients on the importance of lifestyle changes like calorie restriction and physical activity to attain weight loss. Regular monitoring of the blood glucose, weight, and any other necessary parameters. Depending on the reports, the medication should be adjusted.

Diabetes remission, or, is the latest revolution in diabetes care as its focus shifts from merely managing diabetes to strategies to eliminate the need for medication. Knowledge of remission can motivate patients to follow lifestyle modifications strictly. Therefore, a gradual dip in the burden of diabetes-related complications can be achieved. The importance of preventive care and early intervention can ultimately reduce healthcare costs and improve individual health outcomes.

Conclusion

In the future, type 2 diabetes management is likely to involve a step-wise approach towards remission of diabetes based on the patient's metabolic profile.

The concept of diabetes remission is a game-changer in the fight against type 2 diabetes.

While it requires commitment and significant lifestyle changes, the benefits of achieving remission are profound, offering a path to improved health and quality of life.

Combination therapy, including possibly multi-drug therapy, rather than monotherapy, will be the key feature of successful remission.

Remission will be seen as the primary aim, especially for prediabetes and newly-diagnosed T2DM patients, who are the two groups most likely to go into long-term remission with the least effort. Many long-term trials are required to continue this evolution.

Patients, healthcare providers, and policymakers must embrace and support these transformative approaches to diabetes care.

(Dr. Vijay Viswanathan is president-elect of the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India, the largest organisation of diabetes care professionals in the world, and Dr. Reshma is a medical associate, M V Hospital for Diabetes & Prof. M Viswanathan Diabetes Research Centre, Chennai. drvijay@mvdiabetes.com.)

Masahiro Fujimoto using ChatGPT for directions in Kawasaki, south of Tokyo. AFP

Blind gamer puts ChatGPT to the test

Agence France Presse

Japanese eSports gamer Mashiro is blind and often relies on a companion to get around Tokyo -- but he hopes that artificial intelligence, hailed as a promising tool for people with disabilities, can help him travel alone. The 26-year-old 'Street Fighter' player put the latest version of AI chatbot ChatGPT to the test on his way to a stadium for a recent Para eSports meet-up.

"I can't participate in an event like this without someone to rely on," he said. "Also, sometimes I just want to get around by myself without speaking to other people. "So if I can use technology like ChatGPT to design my own special needs support, that would be great."

This year, the US firm OpenAI, released GPT-4o, which understands voice, text and image commands in several languages. The generative gadget, along with others such as Google's Gemini, is part of a fast-growing field that experts say could make education, employment and everyday services more accessible.

Following the streets' tactile paving, Masahiro Fujimoto – who goes by his online handle Mashiro – used his stick adorned with a small monkey mascot to find his way from the station. As he went, he spoke to GPT-4o like a friend, receiving its answers through an earpiece in one ear, leaving the other side free to listen out for cars.

Having asked for basic directions, he

GPT-4o understands voice, text and image commands in several languages. The generative gadget, is part of a growing field that experts say could make everyday services more accessible

added: "In fact, I am blind, so could you give me further details for blind people?"

"Of course," the bot replied. "You might notice an increase in crowd noise and the sound of activities as you get closer." The journey, 20 minutes for sighted people, took Mashiro around four times as long with several U-turns. When it started to rain heavily, he requested help from his friend, who is partially sighted, to finish the journey.

"Arrival!" finally shouted Mashiro, who has microphthalmos and has been blind since birth, using only sound to demolish his opponents on 'Street Fighter 6'.

AI can cater to specific needs better than "one-size-fits-all" assistive products and technologies, said Youngjun Cho, an associate professor in computer science at University College London (UCL).

"Its potential is enormous," said Cho, who also works at UCL's Global Disability Innovation Hub. "I envisage that this can empower many individuals and promote independence."

People with hearing loss can, for example, use AI speech-to-text transcription, while chatbots can help format a resume for someone with learning disabilities.

Some tools for visually impaired people, such as Seeing AI, Envision AI and TapTapSee, describe phone camera images.

Danish app Be My Eyes, where real-life volunteers help via live chat, is working with OpenAI to develop a "digital visual assistant".

But Masahide Ishiki, a Japanese expert in disability and digital accessibility, warned it can be "tricky" to catch mistakes from ChatGPT, which "replies so naturally".

"The next objectiveis to improve the accuracy of real-time visual recognition, to ultimately reach capabilities close to that of an eye," said Ishiki, who is blind.

Zika virus: the need to improve surveillance and vector control

Zubeda Hamid

The Zika virus is making the news once again. At least 15 cases, including eight pregnant women, of Zika have been discovered so far in Pune, Maharashtra. In Karnataka, a 74-year-old who had Zika has died. State Health Department officials say the death was caused by other factors. Another suspected case in Karnataka is being investigated as well.

The Pune Municipal Corporation has said it has stepped up surveillance; the Karnataka Health Department has released guidelines on the virus for the public, and both States have urged members of the public to ensure there are no mosquito-breeding sites at their homes.

Meanwhile, the Union Health Ministry has issued an advisory to States to be vigilant; screen pregnant women, and strengthen entomological surveillance and intensify vector-control activities.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has asked States not only to increase testing for Zika but also to test patients with chikungunya and dengue-like symptoms who test negative for these infections for Zika, as per a news report.

As the monsoon continues over large parts of the country, creating ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes, and with cases of dengue spiking as well, State administrations and members of the public need to step up mosquito-control measures to prevent transmission of diseases.

Here's a quick FAQ on Zika:

Mosquitoes carry dengue, yellow fever, chikungunya and Zika. AP

What is Zika virus?

As per the World Health Organization (WHO), Zika virus is a mosquito-borne virus first identified in Uganda in 1947 in a Rhesus macaque monkey, followed by evidence of infection and disease in humans in other African countries in the 1950s. Zika virus occurs through the bite of infected Aedes mosquitoes, mainly Aedes aegypti, which also transmits dengue and chikungunya. The Aedes mosquitoes usually bite during the day. Sexual transmission, transmission from mother to foetus and transfusions of blood and blood products are other routes of transmission.

How it manifests?

Most people infected with the Zika virus do not develop symptoms, the WHO says. Among those who do, they typically start 3-14 days after infection and are generally mild, including rash, fever, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, and headache, which usually last for 2-7 days.

How is it diagnosed?

Zika virus may be suspected based on symptoms or the fact that the person is living in or visiting areas where Zika transmission has occurred. A diagnosis can only be given after a laboratory test. A recent report in *The Hindu* pointed to gaps in the tracking and surveillance of the virus, highlighting the fact that in March 2023, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), India's apex agency for diagnostic approvals, confirmed that there was no approved diagnostic test for Zika. This limitation, the report said, hinders the country's ability to diagnose Zika. At present, samples are generally sent to a few select labs, including the National Institute of Virology, for confirmation. The NIV, a media report indicates, is flooded with samples, leading to delays in the issuing of reports.

What are the ill effects?

Zika virus infection during pregnancy, the WHO says, can cause infants to be born with microcephaly and other congenital malformations and can also cause preterm births and miscarriage. Microcephaly is a condition in which an infant's head is smaller than what is typical for their age and can be caused by the brain not developing properly. An estimated 5-15% of infants born to women infected with Zika virus during pregnancy have evidence of Zika-related complications, as per the WHO. Zika virus infection is also associated with Guillain-Barré syndrome, neuropathy, and myelitis in adults and children. Guillain-Barré syndrome is a rare condition that causes a person's immune system attacks the peripheral nerves.

Is there a vaccine?

No vaccine is as yet available for the prevention or treatment of Zika virus infection, the WHO says. The development of a Zika vaccine remains an active area of research.

A few studies have shown promising results. In India for instance, several companies are attempting to make a vaccine. In a study published in 2017, Bharat Biotech's "killed Zika virus vaccine" which uses an African strain showed 100% efficacy against mortality and disease in animal studies. Indian Immunologicals Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board said earlier this year that it was also working on developing a vaccine.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Rise in import of vegetable oils in India in June

18 in percentage. Vegetable oil imports, comprising edible and non-edible oils, rose to 15.5 lakh tonnes in June on higher imports of crude palm oil and crude sunflower oil, according to Solvent Extractors' Association of India data. PTI

Number of Indian fishermen arrested by Sri Lanka

13 The fishermen were arrested, and their three trawlers were seized north of the Delft Island, Jaffna, according to the Sri Lanka Navy. The total number of Indian fishermen apprehended this year by the Sri Lankan Navy is now 252, a statement said. PTI

Number of flexi jobs added by Indian Staffing Federation

2.2 lakh. Industry body Indian Staffing Federation said it added new flexi jobs to reach 16.6 lakh in FY24. The data was shared as part of its 'Annual Employment Trends 2024' report which showed a 15.3% year-on-year growth in new jobs. PTI

U.S. grants unveiled to boost electric vehicle manufacturing

1.7 in $ billion. Joe Biden's administration is issuing grants to help expand or revive auto facilities for making electric vehicles and parts in election battlegrounds Michigan and Georgia and in converting 11 shuttered or at-risk facilities. AFP

Disproportionate assets unearthed by Lokayukta in Karnataka

45.14 in ₹ crore. Lokayukta sleuths found that 11 government officers and engineers had amassed assets that were disproportionate to their known sources of income. PTI

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Future investments in India's EV space

Why is the government considering extending the EV policy? How does the revised policy align with India's goals of enhancing local manufacturing and technology adoption in the EV industry? In what ways can the policy's focus on localisation and production volume increase competition and lower costs?

EXPLAINER

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:

According to media reports, the government is looking to expand the scope of its electric vehicle (EV) policy, announced in March, to include a retrospective effect. This means that the policy, that endeavours to prompt global players to localise production and invest in the domestic ecosystem, will now extend benefits to entities who have already made their investments. Earlier, entities were eligible for incentives only if they set up local facilities within three years of receiving approval. The revised policy is expected to be formally announced in August, the publications learnt from people familiar with the development.

What was the March policy's focus on investment and localisation about?

The policy announced in March aimed to provide Indian consumers with access to the latest technology and strengthen the EV ecosystem by encouraging healthy competition among EV players by attaining higher volumes of production, economies of scale and lower cost of production. All in all, better the electric vehicle economics for Indian consumers, and in a commercially viable manner for the ecosystem. The policy also mandated that half of the value addition in the overall manufacturing be done domestically within five years. To maintain commercial viability and retain a foothold in the Indian market, the import duty on EVs as completely built units (CBUs) with a minimum cost, insurance, and freight (CIF) value of $35,000 was reduced from 70%-100% to 15%.

The policy document held India, being the third-largest automotive market in the world, could potentially "lead the global transition" from internal combustion engine (ICE) to decarbonised electric counterparts. Overall, the policy was potentially a recognition that import substitution for EVs would require a layered and longer-sustained approach. To this effect, for a commercially viable transition, it further provided mechanisms for manufacturers to address the imperative affordability paradigm of Indian consumers.

Towards change: A person uses an electric vehicle charging station, in Hyderabad. NAGARA GOPAL

Why does the ecosystem need investment and intervention?

A Niti Aayog report in 2022 argued that purchasing a vehicle is a "major investment decision" for most Indian consumers. Thus, it was essential to ensure viable economics for owning, as well as maintaining and running the same - the total cost of ownership.

The report suggested that a sharper decline in costs would prepone the EV adoption timeline. It is essential to note that the report points to India's structural unit cost disadvantages in the production of select cell components such as CAM NMC (8-10%) and electrolyte (2-3%). Furthermore, as per the report, certain cell components such as separators, copper foil and anode active material (AAM) require sizeable capital investment – about $200-500 million for a 20-30 GWh plant. The commission thus recommended it was imperative to offset the dynamics and "create an enabling eco-system to attract large-scale capex investment vis-à-vis other geographies".

The other essentiality for a comprehensive ecosystem stems from the observed experience of after-sales service. Bain & Company's India EV Report (2023), observing the two-wheeler EV segment, had pointed to after-sales service being a "big pain point" for EV customers. It also cast apprehensions about the scalability of business models that had OEMs partnering with standalone breakdown service providers (such as Ampere with ReadyAssist).

The report also held that India would require "significant investor support" to realise the $100 billion-plus EV opportunity.

"As the landscape evolves, investors need to evaluate potential assets based on five criteria, namely, sustainable competitive advantages, go-to-market and distribution capabilities, customer feedback and brand perception, talent and culture as well as manufacturing and supply chain strategy," it held.

Does all of it address the paradigm?

The EV policy announced in March shares similar priorities with those in the U.S., China and Europe, where incentives have been endowed on a case-by-case basis to different companies for setting up capacity for EV value chain manufacturing. They entail land and infrastructure, capital subsidies, financing support, fiscal incentives and subsidised utilities. However, unrelatedly, the International Energy Agency (IEA)'s Global EV Outlook for 2024 pointed out that electric cars remain 10% to 50% more expensive than combustion engine equivalents in Europe and the U.S., depending on the country and car segment.

Notably, Europe and the U.S. meet 20% and 30% of their EV battery demands through imports, according to the report. This also forms a case for the necessity for integrated production lines.

Dinesh Abrol, a retired professor at the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development and a long-time observer of industry and trade told *The Hindu*, that in a broader context, foreign investments have not always been known to deliver. He held that such policies should be able to dictate the type of production that must take place. It must not be restricted to de-risking and de-leveraging, he said.

"If FDI is to reap its potential fully, the focus must be on ensuring that it is towards building a core country, such that the critical components are made here, there is the transfer of technology and local manufacturing is built here," states Prof Abrol, adding, "If FDI does not enable one to be a core country, you will not be to progress towards an enabling capacity to establish yourself as a core player. Instead, you shall stand inserted as a peripheral player in the larger supply manufacturing chain." According to Mr. Abrol, the way forward is to strengthen the domestic players in the creation of capabilities for critical components and make the foreign automakers use the domestic suppliers' networks.

THE GIST

- The Indian government plans to expand its electric vehicle (EV) policy announced in March to include retrospective benefits, incentivising both current and future investments in the domestic EV ecosystem.
- Earlier, incentives were tied to setting up local facilities within three years of approval; the revised policy will extend benefits to entities that have already invested in local EV production.
- The policy aims to encourage localisation of EV production, boost technology adoption, and enhance competitiveness in the Indian EV market.
- The move is expected to stimulate investment in manufacturing capacity, reduce costs, and accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles in India.

Why are dengue cases on the rise worldwide?

Are urbanisation and climate change fuelling dengue spread in the world?

Serena Josephine M.

The story so far:

Dengue cases have surged in India, with Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu seeing significant increases. According to data published by the National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control, as of April 30, India recorded 19,447 cases and 16 deaths, with Kerala and Tamil Nadu leading in numbers. Karnataka, initially reporting 2,503 cases, has now recorded 7,840 cases and seven deaths as of July 10, with 293 new cases reported on that day alone.

What is the global situation of dengue?

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), as of April 30, over 7.6 million cases of dengue were reported in 2024. This included 3.4 million confirmed cases, over 16,000 severe cases and over 3,000 deaths. In an update on the global scenario on May 30, it said that 90 countries have known active dengue transmission, adding that "not all of which have been captured in formal reporting".

The WHO noted that at least five countries, including India, were grappling with the onset of monsoon season, which created suitable conditions for the breeding and survival of Aedes mosquito. Urbanisation and population movements have also played a pivotal role in the increasing burden in the region.

Dengue is endemic in more than 100 countries in the WHO regions of Africa, the Americas, the Eastern Mediterranean, South-East Asia and Western Pacific. The Americas, South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions were the most seriously affected, with Asia accounting for around 70% of the global disease burden. However, it also noted that dengue is spreading to new areas in Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean and South America.

How does dengue spread and how is it treated?

Dengue virus is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected mosquitoes, with the primary vector that transmits the disease being Aedes aegypti. While cases are mostly asymptomatic or mild, some may develop severe dengue that could include shock, severe bleeding or organ impairment. According to the National Guidelines for Clinical Management of Dengue Fever, dengue presents as an acute febrile illness lasting two to seven days, characterised by symptoms such as headache, retro-orbital pain, myalgia, arthralgia, rash, and hemorrhagic manifestations. In those without any warning signs or complications, dengue is managed through symptomatic and supportive treatment.

What are the emerging patterns in dengue?

Researchers and public health experts have been closely monitoring the emerging patterns in dengue.

According to the WHO, factors contributing to the increasing risk of dengue epidemics include the changing distribution of the Aedes aegypti vector, urbanisation, and human activities that create conducive environments for vector-host interaction, and climate change-induced shifts in weather patterns.

In the article 'Prevention and Control Strategies to Counter the Dengue Cyclical Trend in Tamil Nadu', published in the Tamil Nadu Journal of Public Health and Medical Research, public health officials said that the first epidemic of clinical dengue-like illness was recorded in erstwhile Madras in 1780. Dengue virus was isolated in India during 1945 for the first time. The first evidence of the occurrence of dengue fever in the country was reported in 1956 from Vellore district in the State, they said.

They said the infection has spread to all geographic regions due to rapid increase in urbanisation, expanding travel patterns and climatic changes.

Tamil Nadu, they said, has witnessed outbreaks of dengue infection once every five years in the past decade with the last outbreak occurring in 2017.

The State's Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine T. S. Selvavinayagam pointed out seasonal variation every five years, probably due to the building up of susceptible populations. "We are seeing cases throughout the year. There are more cases in a short time if control measures are not taken on time. As for Tamil Nadu, we expect cases to rise in the coming months. Surveillance and immediate response are critical. Along with this, community empowerment and education is needed," he said.

THE GIST

- Dengue cases have surged in Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, with significant increases reported
- Dengue is endemic in over 100 countries, with the Americas, Southeast Asia, and the Western Pacific regions most affected.
- Factors contributing to dengue epidemics include changing mosquito distribution, urbanisation, human activities, and climate change.

Valmiki corporation scam: ED raids continue on day two

Searches conducted on multiple residences of former Minister B. Nagendra and corporation chairman Basanagouda Daddal; Enforcement Directorate detains two aides of the former Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) that raided over 20, locations including those linked to two Congress MLAs in connection with the scam at the State-run Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation where funds up to ₹88 crore were allegedly embezzled continued for the second day on Thursday.

While the Enforcement Directorate concluded raids at several locations on Wednesday, it continued raids at atleast five locations, mainly multiple residences of former Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare B. Nagendra and chairman of the corporation Basanagouda Daddal.

The ED raid under way at Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation office at Vasanthnagar in Bengaluru on Thursday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The duo were questioned for several hours at their residences during the raids by Enforcement Directorate officials, sources said.

Meanwhile, Enforcement Directorate officials detained two aides of Mr. Nagendra - his personal secretary Devendrappa and personal assistant Harish, even as they have also raided and detained Karthik, the brother-in-law of Mr. Daddal and the MLA's former personal secretary Pampanna.

In his statement to the police, J.J. Padmanabh, MD of the corporation, presently lodged at Parappana Agrahara Central Prison, allegedly claimed to have paid ₹55 lakh to Mr. Pampanna.

The ED officials who had raided the head office of the corporation found that several almirahs with files were under lock and key by the State government formed Special Investigation Team (SIT) that is also probing the case. The ED got duplicate keys made and opened the almirahs to examine them on Thursday, sources said.

Sriramulu seeks arrest of former Minister Nagendra

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Minister B. Sriramulu on Thursday demanded the arrest of B. Nagendra, who quit as ST Welfare Minister in the wake of alleged financial irregularities in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki ST Development Corporation.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Thursday, Mr. Sriramulu argued that it was not enough on the part of the government to just accept the resignation of Mr. Nagendra. "The former Minister should be arrested and brought to book. Also, Mr. Nagendra should quit as an MLA if he has any dignity left in him," Mr. Sriramulu said. A delegation of ST leaders from the BJP, including himself, would visit Delhi to file a complaint in this regard before the National ST Commission, he said.

Welcoming the ED's raids on Mr. Nagendra's residence and various other locations, Mr. Sriramulu hoped that the raids would throw more light on the scam. He alleged that funds from the corporation had been diverted to buy a Lamborghini and to meet the expenses of the recent Lok Sabha polls.

Cab driver stabbed to death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 37-year-old cab driver was stabbed to death at the airport parking lot over a financial row on Tuesday night.

According to the police, the deceased Lokesh, a resident of JP Nagar, had a fight with driver Muthuraj, 31, at the parking lot. In the melee, Muthuraj allegedly stabbed Lokesh with a knife. The other drivers shifted Lokesh to a hospital where the doctors declared him dead on arrival. The airport police have registered a case and arrested Muthuraj, who allegedly confessed that Lokesh had borrowed ₹6 lakh from him a year ago for business and did not return it.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its owner, **SRI.SRIHARSHA** S/o late S.B.Vasantha Rajaiah, residing at No.544, 32nd Cross, 9th Main, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore – 560011.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **10 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

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242523 001197	Procurement of Clay No-1 (Spray Dried) for Board Machine of Unit - II.	26.07.2024
Email	232413001881 - purchase.engg@tnpl.co.in 242523001197 - purchaseimp.u2@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed requirements, Period, Terms & conditions, Tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document at our websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

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(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Head Office, # 6/13/1, 10th Block, 2nd Phase, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru-560072,
Telephone:Ph-080-22282220, **email:** kredlmd@gmail.com / www.kredl.karnataka.gov.in
No. KREDL/07 SG /1681/2024 Date:11.07.2024

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Obtaining land on lease basis for establishing 500MW Solar Park by KREDL in the limits of Madhugiri Taluk Tumakuru District.

Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited, intends to establish 500MW Solar Park in the limits of Madhugiri Taluk Tumakuru District, for which around 2000 Acres of land is required. KREDL intends to obtain land on annual lease basis for a period of 28 years. Annual Lease Rate per acre for the land obtained will be fixed on par with already established 2050MW Pavagada Solar Park. Farmers interested to lend their lands for this project are requested to give their consent in writing with details in the form mentioned below **within 16.08.2024** along with related documents to the office of Karnataka Solar Power Development Corporation Limited (KSPDCL), Site Office, Tirumani Village, Nagalamadike Hobli, Pavagada Taluk, Tumakuru District, Karnataka. Consent letter format is available in KREDL website **(https://kredl.karnataka.gov.in.)**

Name of the Land Owner	Survey No	Hissa No	Extent of land in Guntas	Grama panchayat	Village	Taluk

The decision of KREDL is final with respect to availing land required for the project. For further details, please contact **Sri Mahesh: 9663174832**

Sd/- Managing Director, KREDL

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, AMRAVATI
(e-mail - amravati.ee@mahapwd.gov.in)
TENDER NOTICE NO. 09 OF 2024-2025 (No. 5779/TC/Dt. 05.07.2024)
TENDER NOTIFICATION UNDER e-PROCUREMENT

E-Tender for the following work in "B-1" (Percentage Rate) form is invited via online e-tendering system from Registered/ Unregistered Contractor by the Executive Engineer P.W.Division Amravati on behalf of Government of Maharashtra. Tender Documents are downloaded from Government of Maharashtra portal http://mahatenders.gov.in, Rights to select or reject is reserved by Executive Engineer P.W.Division, Amravati. Tender with condition is never accepted.

Sr. No	Name or work	Estimated Cost (In Lakhs)
1	Construction of Compound Wall and Retaining Wall to Jail at Central Jail Amravati.	1067.43
2	Construction of External Road and Electrification Jail Premises at Central Jail, Amravati.	348.06

E-Tender Issue Date :- As per Tender Schedule
E-Tender Opening Date :- As per Tender Schedule
All information of e-tender available on
1) http://mahapwd.com
2) http://mahatenders.gov.in
3). Please note the further changes regarding this work will not be published through corrigendum by press notice. The changes will be available on web site.
4) The Bidder shall submit the Hard Copy within 72 Hrs.
5) Contractors shall submit E.M.D. This should be submitted from the bank account of the same (individual body/partnership body/company) in which the tender is submitted.

Sd/-
(C.U.Mehetre)
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division,
Amravati.

DGIPR/2024-2025/794

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

Tender Notice No: SnTcab_Div_RUB_12LCgate_1, Dated : 08-07-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
S&T Cable diversion work for Proposed RUB in lieu of LC No. 61 (Bengaluru - Tumakuru - Arsikere Section), LC No. 62 (Bengaluru - Tumakuru - Arsikere Section), LC No. 64 (Bengaluru - Tumakuru - Arsikere Section), LC No. 15 (Bengaluru - Mysuru Section), LC No. 16 (Bengaluru - Mysuru Section), LC No. 97 (Bengaluru - Jolarpettai Section), LC No. 99 (Bengaluru - Jolarpettai Section), LC No. 9 (Bangarapete - Marikuppam section), LC No. 52 (Salem - Bengaluru section), LC No. 54 (Salem - Bengaluru section), LC 93 (Salem - Bengaluru section) and LC No. 54 (Bengaluru - Dharvamavaram section) over Bengaluru Division).	Rs. 81,98,353.85

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 30-07-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Bengaluru

PUB/252/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my Client **Mr. Syed Zameer,** Son of Syed Anwar (Phone No.9886008869) has negotiated to purchase below mentioned Schedule Property from its present owner Mrs. Jayalakshmi.M, Wife of B.V.Ravi presently residing at No.54, 5th Cross, N.Narayanappa Garden, Tavarekere Bangalore-29 who has acquired the title & Possession by virtue of Registered Gift Deed dt:-22/12/2012 executed and registered by her Father Mariyappa. Any person/s, institution/s having any right, title, interest, claim, demand, charge or encumbrance over the schedule property may notify his/their claim or objections if any, together with documentary proof to the undersigned within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of this notice, failing which it would be conclusively presumed and deemed that no person/s has/have any right, title, interest, claim, charge or encumbrance whatsoever in the Schedule Property and further my client will be entitled to proceed with the transaction and get register the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.54, BBMP Property No.105, 106,107-54 situated at Tavarekere Village, N.Narayanappa Garden, Bangalore, Old Ward No.64 Presently coming under the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No.171, Measuring East to West-35feet and North to South-30feet in all measuring 1050 square feet. Bounded on the: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Site No.45, **North by:** Site No.53, **South by:** Others Property,

R.A. RAHMAN, Advocate
No.01, Tipu Chambers 2nd Floor, 4th Cross, N.R. Road, Bangalore-560002. Karnataka.

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Hutti-584115, Raichur Dist, Karnataka State, Tele: 08537-275463, 276339, Fax: (08537)275048, 275054
e-Mail: material276339@gmail.com Website: www.huttigold.karnataka.gov.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 05/24-25 Dt: 12.07.2024
(Through KPPP Portal only)

Tenders are invited by "The General Manager (Tech)" for the procurement of following items from reputed manufacturers/authorized dealers as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Description	Approx. Value Rs. in Lakhs	EMD in Rs.
1	Supply Of Sail Hard Wear Plate. **HGML/2024-25/IND0194.**	34.50	69,000/-
2	Supply of Banana. **HGML/2024-25/IND0192.**	8.12	20,000/-
3	Supply Of Assorted Size Ms Slip On Flanges Pipes. **HGML/2024-25/IND0190.**	14.38	36,000/-
4	Supply Of Contra Rotating Axial Flow Fan. **HGML/2023-24/IND0088/CALL-5.**	12.74	32,000/-
5	Supply Of Hard Plate 10 MM. **HGML/2024-25/IND0199.**	34.80	70,000/-
6	Supply of various types of Unbalanced Vibrator Motors. **HGML/2024-25/IND0201.**	7.20	18,000/-
7	Supply of Miners LED Cap Lamp. **HGML/2024-25/IND0207.**	44.80	90,000/-

Calendar of events: **(1)** Last date for receipt of tender : **29.07.2024 at 4.00 P.M. (2)** Opening of Technical Bid on: **31.07.2024 at 10.00 A.M .**

For further details interested bidders are advised to logon to website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of undersigned during working hours. For participating in the above tender bidder needs to be registered in e-procurement portal.

Sd/- General Manager (Tech)

"LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA"

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 • 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 • 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 • 2335700

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SOBODH Chandra, spouse of Late. Harish Chandra, Resident at House No.65, Bhikshu Kuttir, 2nd Main, Gokula 1st Stage 2nd Phase, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022, have changed my name from Sobodh Chandra to Subodh Chandra vide affidavit dated 11/07/2024 before Notary K.S.Giridhar, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby notified that my client Mr. Ravi Kumar and Mrs. Suhasini, is the sole and absolute owner of the schedule Property. The original Sale deed, dated 26-04-2004 Document number KRI-1-02007-2004-05 registered at KR Puram Sub-registrar office, Bangalore, executed by Sri. M.Srinivasa, in favour of Sri. Dodda Pillappa, for the Site No. 3, Property No. 44/2, House List Katha No. 44/2, situated at Kalkere Chanasandra Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk are misplaced/lost by client. In this connection, a police complaint has been lodged on 29-06-2024 FIR Reference no. NCR N0-749/2024, GSC No. PO1409240600949.

Any Person finds the document may handover the same to the undersigned within 15 days from this day. If the said document is misused by anybody, it shall not be binding on our client and he/she shall not be binding on our client and he/she shall be doing so at he/their own costs and risks.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of land bearing Site No. 3, Property No. 44/2, House List Katha No. 44/2, situated at Kalkere Chanasandra Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West : 32 feet and North to South : 40 feet, in all measuring 1280 sq.ft and bounded on

East by: 25 feet Road, West by: Property of Kempanna, North by: Site No. 2, South by: Site No. 4,

Contact: 9611530212,
E-mail: vinay.kuraba2@gmail.com

TENDERS

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
Materials Management Division

e-Auctions are invited for the disposal of Plants and Machineries, Scrap & Vehicles (ELVs) in "as is where is" condition. e-Auction will be conducted by **M/s. MSTC Ltd.** For further details / corrigendum, if any, visit

www.mstcecommerce.com,
www.chennaiport.gov.in

Chief Mechanical Engineer

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT
NO.1 RAJAJI SALAI, CHENNAI - 1

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION:
NO.C6/442/2024/T dt.12.07.2024

Notice for e-Tender Cum e-Auction for allotment of 2 areas of Covered Space with RCC Roof at the Ground Floor of Centre Berth Building, in Area II, inside custom bound area for a period of 5 years on Annual Licence basis in as is where is condition without renewal option, under two cover system from 12.07.2024 to 01.08.2024.

For further details visit Ch.P.A. website
www.chennaiport.gov.in and
www.eprocure.gov.in

TRAFFIC MANAGER

LEGAL NOTICE

FORM No. 18

Notice for appearance in Appeals Order 41 Rule 14 CPC, and Rules 1, 2, 4 and 11 of Chapter IV Karnataka High Court Rules

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

Notice to the R-1a and R-1c vide order dated : 26.06.2024

R.S.A. No. 1021/2013

S. Mubeen Taj ...Appellants
(By Sri Shanmukhappa for Kesvy and Co., - Adv)
-V/S-
Sri M G Balagangadharamurthy
Dead by LRs
Smt Nagamani and Ors.,
...Respondents

TO: RESPONDENTS

R-1. Sri M G Balagangadharamurthy
Dead by LRs
R-1a. Smt. Nagamani, W/o Late Sri M G Balagangadharamurthy, Age 59 years,
R-1c. Smt. Shruthi D/o Late M G Balagangadharamurthy, Age 30 years,
R-1a and R-1c are R/o Mayaganahalli, Ramanagaram Taluk, Bengaluru District, Presently R/at No. 870/6, Vanivilas Road, Chamaraja Mohalla, Mysuru 570001.

Appeal from the Judgment and Decree dated 27.02.2013 passed in R.A. No. 74/2007 on the file or the Presiding Officer, Fast Track Court, Ramanagara.

Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this court either in person or through Counsel duly instructed or through some one authorised by law, to act for you in the above appeal **on 29.08.2024 at 10.30 am** in case you intend to contest the appeal. If you fail to appear, the same will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.

Issued under my hand and the seal of this court, this the 26th day of June 2024.

By order of the Court
Assistant Registrar

COURT NOTICE

Form No. 4
Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, South, Saket
In the Court of Ms. Norma Jain
Metropolitan Magistrate
Proclamation Requiring the Appearance of a person accused
CC NI ACT/377/2021
EMU Lines Pvt. Ltd.
Vs
Kavitha Rajesh Shinde
Proprietor
Malviya Nagar
Next Date: 08.10.2024

Whereas complaint has been made before me that **Kavitha Rajesh Shinde Proprietor, Age 0 years, R/o 73/4, Second Floor, Fifth Cross, Kowdenahalli R M Nagar, Banglore-560016, Ph. 9972090135, 9810868162** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence of punishable under section **138/141** of the **Negotiable Instruments Act,** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Kavitha Rajesh Shinde Proprietor** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Kavitha Rajesh Shinde Proprietor** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant):

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Kavitha Rajesh Shinde Proprietor,** Age- 0 is required to appear at **Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, South, Saket** before **Metropolitan Magistrate** to answer the said complaint on the day of **08.10.2024.**

Dated this day of **01.06.2024**

Metropolitan Magistrate

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its owner, **SMT.GAYATHRI JAYARAM** W/o late Jayaram A. Ramarao, residing at No.543, 32nd Cross, 9th Main, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore – 560011.

Apart from the said owner, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **10 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.52 (CITB/BDA Site No.543), PID No.60-117-52, measuring East to West 40 ft., North to South 60 ft., in all measuring 2400 Sq. Feet., together with a house building thereon comprised of ground and first floor, situated at 32nd 'C' Cross, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore, within the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No.168-Pattabhiramanagar Ward and bounded on:

East by : Site No.542
West by : Site No.544
North by : Road
South by : Site Nos.521 & 552

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**
Advocate
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–571401
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08232–224027
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: dho.mandya@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:/ಸರಬ/48/2023–24 **ದಿನಾಂಕ:10.07.2024**

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ (ಕಾಲ್–4) ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ:– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಅಧೀನದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಸಮುದಾಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ 2024–25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ 24 ಮಂದಿ ನಾನ್ ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ (ಕಾಲ್–4) ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ:– (1)ಆಯುಕ್ತರು ಆಕುಕ ಸೇವೆಗಳ ಆಯುಕ್ತಾಲಯ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಸುತ್ತೋಲೆ ದಿ:13.01.2020 ರಂತೆ. (2)ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ರವರು ಇದೇ ಕಡತದ ಕಂಡಿಕೆ 50 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಮೋದಿಸಿರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:06.06.2024 ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ರವರ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಂತೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ ಮಂಡ್ಯ ರವರ ಅಧೀನದ ಸಮುದಾಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಡಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ "24 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ನಾನ್ ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಲು" ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ (KTPP)1999 ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ E-Procurement ಮೂಲಕ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ (ಕಾಲ್–4) ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ ಸೂಕ್ತ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಿ ಕ್ರಮವಹಿಸುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳ ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಮುಂದಿನ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **10.07.2024 ರಿಂದ.** (2) ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **20.07.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ರವರೆಗೆ.** (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **22.07.2024 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ನಂತರ.** (4) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **23.07.2024 ರಂದು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.** (5) ಟೆಂಡರಿನ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ : **ರೂ.79,00,000/–(ಎಪ್ಪತ್ತೊಂಬತ್ತು ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂಗಳು).** (6) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. (2.5%) : **ರೂ.1,97,500/ (ಒಂದು ಲಕ್ಷದ ತೊಂಬತ್ತೇಳು ಸಾವಿರದ ಐದು ನೂರ ರೂ ಗಳು).** (7) ವ್ಯವಹರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : **ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಇಮೇಲ್: dho.mandya@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08232–224027**

ಸಹಿ/–ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ,
ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಸಿಇ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/161/2024–25

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IN THE LIMELIGHT

A still from *Indian 2*.. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Modern challenges, old ideals: what could Indian *thaatha* do in present-day India?

Going by the discourse around *Indian* over the last 30 years, expectations for *Indian 2* suggest a deeper exploration of corruption; *Indian* sparked discussions on corruption and vigilantism and with *Indian 2*, there is anticipation that these themes will be approached in a more nuanced manner

Udhav Naig

The humongous success of the 1996 Tamil blockbuster *Indian*, starring Kamal Haasan and directed by Shankar, can be attributed to a number of reasons, such as Kamal Haasan's brilliant portrayal of a 70-year-old freedom fighter, exquisite music by A.R. Rahman, and Shankar's imaginative storytelling. However, the primary reason for its success was its instant appeal to the 'common man', who was forced to shell out money to government officials on an everyday basis.

The impact of *Gentleman*, *Indian* and subsequently several of director Shankar's films such as *Mudhalvan* and *Anniyan* spoke to generations of Tamil people, shaping their understanding of politics and corruption in the society, often privileging problematic vigilantes over systemic, long drawn-out, incremental reform of the system. Like every movie, *Indian* was written and made within a specific socio-political context in India. Five years before the film's release, in 1991, the Indian government decided to break the locks of the economy by implementing a series of structural reforms that loosened the state's vice-grip on the economy, adopting liberalisation to kickstart economic growth and provide jobs.

In 1990, the then Prime Minister V.P. Singh's government agreed to provide 27% reservations to Other Backward Classes (OBCs), which resulted in widespread protests against its implementation, spawning debates over whether this would affect the efficiency and quality of personnel in bureaucracy. India also witnessed the controversial Ram Janmabhoomi movement, which aimed to build a temple for Lord Ram at the site where the Babri Masjid stood. This, a Hindutva project, still in a nascent stage then, was realised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this year.

These events had a tremendous impact on the psyche of all Indians, including the fictional 'Indian' Senapathy, a freedom fighter turned murderer of corrupt government officials.

For one, he must have started to distrust state control of the Indian economy and other government institutions, viewing them as citadels of corruption. Two, he seems to have developed a subconscious bias against reservations, which provided a pathway for the OBCs along with SCs and STs to get representation in education and jobs (supported by personal experience of the death of his daughter in the film). And, not to mention, he ends up killing his own son, Chandru, a brake inspector in the government, for taking a bribe which results in the deaths of numerous kids.

If we use these ideological and socio-political frameworks, director Shankar's earlier film *Gentleman*, which narrates the story of a non-Brahmin, Kicha, the son of a cook working at a government school, who, to realise the dreams of students like Ramesh, his poor Brahmin friend, unable to secure admission to a medical college due to caste and poverty, decides to rob the rich and powerful to build a college that would admit everyone.

Thirty years later, it is obvious that *Gentleman's* premise hasn't aged well when we look at how abysmally poor the representation of the OBCs and SCs/STs continues to be in India in every sphere, so much so that it became a rallying cry for the Opposition INDIA bloc in the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Desire for vigilante justice

There is a perceptive interview of Kamal Haasan from the 1990s, in which he speaks about the ideological issues he had with *Gentleman* and *Indian* that still rings true.

With respect to *Gentleman*, he says he was not too keen to do the film because the original idea dealt with the militancy of a Brahmin kid, and with *Indian*, he acknowledges that though a man who kills the corrupt and instils fear in them is a dream of every 'common' man, the narrative promotes shades of fascism as it erects a freedom fighter and an uncompromising old man, who kills the corrupt officials as the solution.

Indian's structure is rather interesting: to justify why Senapathy is killing small fries in the State government machinery – a doctor, a Treasury official, an inspector, a VAO and a brake inspector (his own son) – there are two different flashbacks and numerous subplots, one to show his patriotic and valorous past which justifies his killing spree and two, to explain why he selects these people to 'weed out'.

And this is where actor Kamal Haasan's opinion that the film plays on a fascist desire to seek a saviour to clean up the corrupt 'system', a political idea that continues to be popular across the world, instead of participating in a long-drawn-out reform of the system, rings true.

Indian creates villains out of government officials who are appointed through reservations and it prescribes death for these corrupt officials as the only solution, dismissing the idea of 'trying them in a Court of Law' as a complete and utter waste of time. Senapathy is ready to sacrifice his own daughter by refusing to pay a bribe to officials to complete legal formalities for her burn treatment, but later kills all those who sought a bribe from him, unwilling to explore using the law as a solution.

In the last 33 years since the Indian economy was liberalised, big businesses have routinely colluded with the state machinery, resulting in the creation of a small number of big and flashy billionaires, whose loans are routinely written off. Not to be left behind, there are politicians and political parties who can rival big billionaires in India.

Promise of a new narrative?

The trailer for *Indian 2* offers some insights into what the film is likely to be about: the desire to seek a saviour continues to exist and be popular in India, considering the depleting quality of life and growth of Indians, even as an ill-gotten wealth of politicians is used to bribe voters in elections and billionaires continue to corner India's resources.

Indian 2's trailer begins with a voice-over declaring that the country has become worse, rightly so: "What sort of a country is this? There are no jobs that match our qualification...no job pays the salary that the job deserves... we don't get facilities despite paying taxes, thieves continue to steal, those who overstep the law are continuing to do it (without repercussions)" to which the character played by actor Siddharth says, "We don't do enough to change the system." However, he quickly declares that 'we need a hunting dog', foreshadowing the arrival of Indian *thaatha* to weed out corruption once again in India today.

Going by the discourse around *Indian* in the last 30 years or so, one perhaps expects that the issue of corruption in India is painted in a much more nuanced and holistic manner instead of blaming some low-level 'corrupt government officials' and going further than arguing that murder is the only permanent solution to the problem.

There is a line uttered by Kamal Haasan in the trailer: "You take the Gandhian route, I will take the Netaji route', which promises that the film while retaining its impatience related to corruption in society, acknowledges the problem of the original and does not want to simplify issues down to the local Village Administrative Officer as the root cause of corruption.

Of course, Indians continue to face a number of social ills today: the continued hate against minorities, and atrocities against Dalits and other disadvantaged groups, have continued unabated. One hopes that the Indian *thaatha* has also thought long and hard in the last thirty years about these issues and has something to offer as a solution.

Indian 2 is releasing in theatres today

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

Chafe, chaff (K. K. Shah, Chandigarh).

'Chafe' means 'to become irritated or impatient (because of something).' You chafe at something or under something.

She chafed at the delay in the arrival of the train.

'Chafe' also means '(cause something to) become sore by rubbing.'

The stiff collar chafed his neck.

'Chafe' also means 'to rub (especially the skin to restore warmth or sensation).'

She chafed the child's hands and feet when it fainted.

The 'a' in 'chafe' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'fame,' 'name.' 'Chaff as a verb means 'to tease.' You chaff somebody in a good-natured way about something.

They chaffed her about her new dress.

The 'a' in 'chaff is pronounced like the 'a' in 'path.' In American English, it is pronounced like the 'a' in 'man.' The 'ch' in 'chafe' and 'chaff is pronounced like the 'ch' in 'child.'

'Bomb along' (M. R. Kamat, Mangalore).

'Bomb along' means 'to move very fast (usually in a vehicle) in the specified direction.'

He bombed along the highway at 100 miles per hour.

Meaning of *'a skeleton in a cupboard'* (M. P. Vidyashankar, Channapatna).

It means 'a family secret or scandal kept concealed to avoid public shame and disgrace; any confidential matter which, if revealed, could be a source of embarrassment.' In American English, the word 'cupboard' is replaced by 'closet.' The idiomatic expressions 'a skeleton in the cupboard' and a skeleton in the closet' mean one and the same thing.

Rao's house was raided yesterday. He has enough skeletons in his cupboard to keep the Income Tax officials busy for the next three months.

We all have skeletons in our cupboards. Otherwise, we would not be human beings. There are many explanations for the origin of this expression. One such relates to the practice of English doctors who used to keep a human skeleton in their cupboard. Before 1832, doctors in England were allowed to conduct an autopsy only on criminals who had been executed. When autopsy became legal, doctors wanted to own a skeleton. They wanted to study the skeleton at leisure to have a greater understanding of the human body. The demand for skeletons was so great that robbers dug graves and sold the skeletons to doctors. Doctors usually paid a handsome price for a skeleton. They were forced to keep the skeleton in a place where nobody could see it They hid the skeleton in a cupboard. Every doctor was suspected to have a skeleton in his cupboard. With the passage of time, the phrase took on a wider meaning. Now it means 'a secret that would embarrass someone if it became known.'

Published in The Hindu on August 31, 1992

THE DAILY QUIZ

World Population Day was on July 11. Let us see if you got the figures right

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Ramya Kannan

QUESTION 1

World Population Day falls on July 11. It was designated so by the governing council of the UNDP, for a specific reason. What was the reason?

QUESTION 2

When was the last Indian census conducted?

QUESTION 3

In the 200 years or so, since the world hit the magic number of 1 billion in terms of population, it grew ——.

Fill in the blank, by how many times did the population grow?

QUESTION 4

Total fertility rate is the average number of children born per woman in a country, and it has been reducing over the years. India's fertility rate has been declining for decades, and it has now dropped to below the replacement level of 2.1 children per woman. What is the fertility rate for India as of 2021?

QUESTION 5

Which are the top three most populous countries in the world?

The first two may be easy to guess, not a big challenge. Name the third-most populous country and while you are at it, throw in No. 1 and 2 as well.

Visual Question:

Which continent has the highest rate of population growth?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. A classic of modern American literature, this book won this prize. **Ans: Pulitzer Prize**

2. This character, a lawyer in the book, has served as a moral hero for many readers and as a model of integrity for lawyers. Name the character. **Ans: Atticus Finch**

3. Which genre does this novel belong to, given that it focuses on the psychological and moral growth of the protagonist from childhood to adulthood? **Ans: Bildungsroman**

4. Who won the award for best actor, for portraying the leading role? **Ans: Gregory Peck**

5. This character Dill Harris is the best friend of the Finch children in the novel. He is believed to be based on a childhood friend of Harper Lee, who was a novelist and playwright himself. **Ans: Truman Capote**

6. What is the metaphor behind the title of the novel? **Ans: 'To kill a mockingbird' is to kill that which is innocent and harmless**

Visual: The sign that reads watchman refers to Harper Lee's only other book. **Ans:** *Go Set a Watchman*

Early Birds: Seema Das | Jyot Prakash | Debarati Kar | Sadhan Kumar Panda | Prachi Sharma

Word of the day

Castigate:
To severely criticise (someone/something)

Synonyms: reproach, censure, rebuke

Usage: *Parties castigated the Chief Minister for his remark.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/castigatepronun

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kæstəgeɪt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Draft Bill proposes to introduce proportional representation in ward committees

It will empower contestants in civic polls to nominate 1 member for every 10% vote share they get

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The draft of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024, reimagines ward committees by introducing proportional representation empowering all contestants in the civic polls to nominate one member for every 10% vote share they secure. This, if implemented, will probably be the first time proportional representation will make its way into our elections, in a country that has adopted the first-past-the-post system for elections.

This will also change the makeup of ward committees, which are practically packed with nominees of the councillor now, and empower them. Proportional representation in ward committees will make them more representative of the voters of the ward, and since representatives of multiple parties will be there, it will make the committee meetings more democratic as well, as per the draft Bill. The councillor will chair the ward committee.

The draft Bill proposes to empower ward committees by giving it a share of the property tax it collects. FILE PHOTO

GREATER BENGALURU GOVERNANCE BILL - 2024

Of the 20 members of a ward committee, 10 members will be nominated through proportional representation. Each contestant seeking to be elected as a councillor has to name his nominees, at least three and a maximum of 10 persons, who will be nominated for the ward committee based on his vote share. However, if more seats are vacant after proportionally representing all the contestants who have secured at least a 10% vote share, the remaining seats will be filled by nominees of the councillor.

The remaining 10 members of the ward committee will have nominees from civil society, including three from local RWAs, two from local NGOs, two from slum associations, two from professional groups/industry bodies, and one social worker. These 20 members will have voting rights. The ward committee will also have representatives from all the parastatals as ex-officio members, who will not have voting rights. The draft Bill also provides for area sabhas, and representatives from area sabhas can participate in the meetings of the ward committees but they are not empowered to vote.

The draft Bill proposes to empower ward committees by giving it a share of property tax it collects. The ward committees will get a share of up to 50% of the increase in collection of property tax in the ward through collection of arrears, underassessed and unassessed properties, in comparison to the baseline of the previous year. The draft Bill also makes approval of the ward committee mandatory for change of land use plan in the ward.

(This is part of a series on the draft of Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024)

Man loses ₹1L to cyber fraud

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 35-year-old cook on Wednesday filed a complaint with the central division cybercrime police against an unknown person who allegedly offered to pay him ₹8 lakh in exchange for ₹5 denomination currency notes and made away with ₹1 lakh.

Based on the complaint, the police registered a case against the accused charging him under Section 318 of BNS (cheating) and also under the IT Act. Karan Singh Ayer, in his complaint to the police, said that while browsing social media, he came across an advertisement claiming to pay ₹8 lakh for ₹5 denomination currency notes. Curious, Ayer clicked on the link and found that he was added to a WhatsApp group. The accused asked Ayer to share the photograph of the note and confirmed that he would be given the cash reward after completing the formalities.

Ayer followed the instruction and paid till ₹1 lakh as the accused asked for registration fee, processing charges and tax. When the demand for money grew, Ayer consulted his friends before realising that he had been cheated.

Stakeholder consultation on electric bus operations held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A pivotal stakeholder consultation focusing on leading practices in electric bus operations was held in the city on Thursday.

The event served as a platform for sharing both national and international experiences and best practices in electric bus operations, aiming to promote and encourage their wider adoption across India.

Ramachandran R., MD of BMTC, was a key speaker at the consultation. He provided valuable insights into various aspects of electric bus operations, including operation planning, the significance of data for optimising performance, electric bus design, challenges in electrification, and the future prospects for BMTC's electrification efforts.

The consultation was organised by Convergence Energy Services Ltd. in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development's South Asia Regional Energy Partnership programme. The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), bus operators, battery companies, and charging point operators.

Hundreds of houses were damaged in Mudigere taluk during the heavy rains that lashed the area in August 2019. PRAKASH HASSAN

(Above and below) A view of Malemane village in Mudigere taluk which was hit by floods and landslip in August 2019. SATHISH G.T

A damaged building at Malemane village in Mudigere taluk. SATHISH G.T.

The road to Alekhan Horatti village in Mudigere taluk being restored.

The massive damage caused by rains in parts of Mudigere taluk. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A deluge and its aftermath

It was five years ago that some villages in Mudigere, Kalasa and other hilly taluks of Chikkamagaluru district were devastated by unprecedented rains and landslips. With rehabilitation work limping, the lives of those affected are yet to get back on track, finds **Sathish G.T.**

August 9, 2019, is a day etched in the memory of hundreds of people in the villages of Mudigere, Kalasa, Koppa, and other taluks at the foothills of the Western Ghats in Chikkamagaluru district in Karnataka. It was the day of the Vara Mahalakshmi festival, but their memory is of the deluge, destruction, and devastation that heavy rains brought them that day. Many continue to suffer in its aftermath a good five years later because of incomplete rehabilitation.

A day of horrors

Chandrakala, a resident of Malemane village, recalls that on that day, by afternoon, the downpour had intensified. People in several villages in Mudigere and neighbouring taluks knew it was not a typical rainy day. Within a couple of hours, they could hear a loud noise from the hilltops. Rainwater came gushing like a river, taking all that was in its way: people, livestock, entire houses. "I still remember how I ran towards my home as water followed me," recalls Chandrakala, an agricultural labourer in her mid-40s.

That day, she met one of her employers expecting some advance payment, as she was planning to bring back her daughter from a government-run residential school for the weekend.

"My employer asked me why I took the risk of visiting him during heavy rains. My worry was to reach my daughter's hostel somehow and bring her back home safe, as we were listening to reports of road blockades all over the area," she said. As she returned home after taking the money, she could see rainwater flowing like a river. "The house that I had just visited was washed away in the rainwater even as I watched," Chandrakala recalls.

Chikkamagaluru district, known for its picturesque hill stations, is located in the south-western part of Karnataka. People from distant places choose the hill station for holidaying, prompting a steep increase in homestays and resorts in the localities adjacent to forest areas in the district. Every weekend, the roads leading to popular tourist destinations witness traffic jams, posing a formidable challenge to the local administration.

The hilly parts of the district - Mudigere, Chikkamagaluru, Koppa, Sringeri, and N.R. Pura taluks - receive high rainfall. The residents have adjusted their routines in tune with the heavy rains. They spend their days working in the fields – coffee and tea plantations – despite the rain.

However, what they witnessed in August 2019 was unprecedented. They never expected the entire hillocks to come crumbling down, covering the agricultural lands at the foothills. Within hours, hundreds of people were rendered homeless. Among them, the worst hit were those in the villages of Malemane, Madugundi, Haravinakere, Chennahadlu, Durgadahalli, Alekhan Horatti, Balur, and Kalasa. The rainwater had taken away the hard work they had put in for decades to cultivate their plantations and build houses. The road network was severely damaged, making it difficult for the administration to reach relief for the affected people.

The damage of such magnitude was caused by heavy rains that lashed in a short time. Until July 2019 end, the Malnad region had received average rainfall in the southwest monsoon. In fact, on July 31, 2019, the average rainfall in the region was 25% less than usual, as expected in that month. However, within a month, the region had received 121% excess rainfall.

> It took several days for the families to recover from the horror. Everything was covered in mud: the house, cattle shed, vehicles. Now, people have all moved to Mudigere, Banakal, and other places, and are living in rented houses there.
>
> **PRAJWAL MALEMANE**
> resident of Malemane

"For nearly 10 days, there was no power supply in our area," said Chudamani, a resident of Sankasale village. There was no school for children either and no access to even essential commodities. Hundreds lived in temporary shelters.

Lasting impact

The damage caused by rainfall five years ago has had a lasting impact on the lives of many. Villagers tell stories of those who died even before their families could get a proper relief package.

Channappa Gowda, 65, a farmer at Devaragudda in Mudigere taluk, reportedly took his life on September 14, 2019. Villagers say Channappa Gowda took the extreme step as he was upset after his five-acre farmland was badly hit during the rains. He had cultivated coffee and areca on his land.

Prajwal Malemane, a resident of Malemane Colony, points out the places where five houses once stood. Now, the entire area is covered by greenery, hiding the remnants of old structures buried beneath. "It took several days for the families to recover from the horror. Everything was covered in mud: the house, cattle shed, vehicles. Now, people have all moved to Mudigere, Banakal, and other places and are living in rented houses there," he said.

Ashwath Gowda is one of those who has moved out of the village. Within a month after his family lost the agricultural land, his father, Narayana Gowda, suffered a stroke. "He could not come out of the trauma he suffered because of the landslide. His blood pressure was not under control. After he suffered a stroke, he was hospitalised for two months in Mangaluru. Later, in 2022, he passed away when he was 63 years old," said Ashwath. He stays with his wife and mother in a rented house at Banakal. After visiting offices hundreds of times, seeking adequate relief, he has lost hope. "I don't know when the government will give us full relief. Often, they assure us a piece of land but do not continue the process," he said.

Ashwath's neighbour in Malamane, Raju, lives with his family in Mudigere. "I have been living in a house that belonged to my brother-in-law on rent for the past five years," Raju said.

When his land was damaged due to a landslide in 2019, his son Vihaan was in class 6 at a private school in Banakal. As the family suffered a severe jolt and lost the source of income, Raju thought of sending him to a government school, as it was difficult to bear the fee. However, the school authorities offered to provide him free education up to 10th grade.

"I am grateful to the school management, who stood by their promise. Now, my son is in the SSLC. All these years, the school has not taken a fee from me. The private school management has been more generous than the government," he said. Raju and a few other residents received a relief of ₹1 lakh, the initial amount for house construction, and another ₹25,000 towards rent for five months. Besides, a few families who had lost their houses got sites near Banakal and built houses using the funds released by the government. But many have not been able to move on because of the red tape.

Following the rain havoc, the then Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and other elected representatives visited the places. The government announced that the families who lost houses would get ₹5 lakh each to build houses. Until the houses were ready, they could rent houses, and the government would release ₹5,000 as rent per month.

A landslip occurred at Gabgal near Balur in Mudigere taluk in July last year. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Malemane village in Balur hobli of Mudigere taluk. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Still in rented houses

The officers told the affected people that they would get their houses ready within 10 months. However, the promise has not been fulfilled for many residents of Malemane, Madugundi, Chennadlu, and a few other places. "We are still in rented houses. The government had assured us land, as we had lost ours. For the last five years, we have been seeking alternative land so that we can start our lives afresh," said Raju. The flood-hit people have staged several protests in Mudigere. However, their demands remain unfulfilled.

Chikkamagaluru Deputy Commissioner Meena Nagaraj said that the government had identified around 30 acres of land in Mudigere taluk for flood victims of Malemane and Madugundi. "We have taken the Forest Department's opinion and sent the proposal to the State Government. We are waiting for clearance in the Cabinet," she said.

The families that lost land due to landslides have been asked to move out of their places, as their places are vulnerable. However, with no source of income, until they get alternative land, many continue to cultivate a portion of the land that is not affected by the floods.

"We are tilling the land that is intact, though the government asked us not to cultivate it, as we have no other alternative, we are continuing with this," said Ashwath. They have been told that the district administration has identified land for their rehabilitation at Bettagere in Mudigere taluk. However, they are not sure how much land they will get as relief. The extent of land the families lost varies from two acres to eight acres. Besides, many had been cultivating land adjacent to their properties without any records. They cannot claim compensation for the "encroached land."

Similarly, the district administration has identified land for rehabilitation of the people of Chennahadlu in Kalasa taluk and Guddethota in Koppa taluk. The families of Chennahadlu would be shifted to Idukani. The State government has yet to clear the proposal. In the case of Guddethota, the residents are not convinced about leaving their place. The negotiations are still going on.

Ready for any eventuality

Meanwhile, this year, so far, four people have died, and 120 houses have been damaged due to heavy rains that have lashed the district since April 1. Meena Nagaraj, the Deputy Commissioner, said that they are geared for any eventuality. As per the instructions from Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, gram panchayat-level task forces have been constituted to face the disaster, if any.

"We have identified 80 villages spread over 47 gram panchayats in the district as vulnerable. The officers have identified 77 safe shelters, and in case of any incident, the affected people will be shifted there," the official said. The administration has identified expert swimmers and volunteers to join hands with the officials to work during difficult times. Similarly, earthmovers and machinery have been kept ready.

(Those in distress or having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani on Ph.: 104 for help).

True colours

We speak to restaurateurs and bakers about the recent order on the use of food colourants and the impact on menus

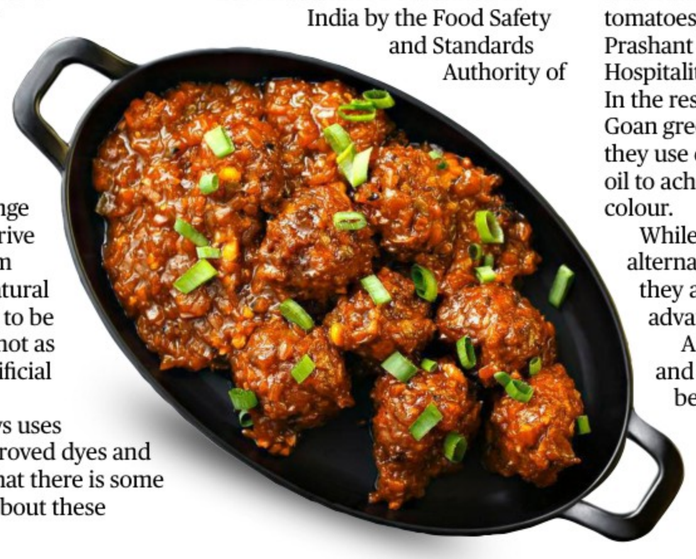
Rue the hue Artificial dyes have made their way into sweets, drinks and dishes. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Anagha Maareesha
anagha.maareesha@thehindu.co.in

On June 21, the Food Safety and Quality Department of Karnataka issued an order on the use of food colourants and chemical additives. The order was passed after the department analysed almost 40 kebab samples from across the city. The tests in the government-run laboratories revealed that the presence of artificial colours was so high that they were deemed unsafe to eat. Not just kebabs, but the state also cracked down on the use of these colours in pani puri, cotton candy and gobi Manchurian. India is cracking down on food safety laws, and for good reason.

Not all artificial colours are entirely bad or harmful. Joonie Tan, executive pastry artist at Lavonne, tells us, "In our cafe, we use natural colours, we don't use any artificial dyes. If we need red, we use strawberries or raspberries." For more vibrant cakes and desserts, Joonie says they use food gels since natural colours have a limited range as it is hard to derive many shades from these sources. Natural colours also tend to be more pastel and not as vibrant as the artificial ones.

The cafe always uses Government-approved dyes and Joonie explains that there is some misinformation about these products. "One big thing is the amount of colour you use. Apart from the health reasons, it is also about practicality. The artificial dyes stain a lot. For example, if you use too much of black in a dessert, it may stain your mouth," she adds.



What are these colours?

Here is what you should watch out for as a diner, and if you are using colours in home cooking or baking. Some of the artificial colours that have come under the microscope are sunset yellow (technical names include Yellow 6 and E110), carmoisine (a deep red dye, also known as azorubine. Its technical names include Red No. 10 and E122), and rhodamine B (this is a textile dye, but sometimes illegally used in place of red colour).

Different countries have different regulations when it comes to these dyes. For instance, sunset yellow is approved for use in the US, while it needs to come with a warning on the label in the EU. Rhodamine B is banned in India by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Some colours are allowed to be used but only in limited quantities. One such example is tartrazine, the technical name of which is E102 in the EU and Yellow 5 in the US. The problem with the colours is that in large quantities they can be carcinogenic, or can induce stomach problems, or dizziness. Some of them are also not vegan or vegetarian, as they derive the colours from animal sources.

The main culprits of dye usage are dishes such as kebabs, Manchurians and candy – anything with bright colours. In our research, most *darshinis* and street carts did not admit to using any colours in their food. We spoke to five local bakeries, as well as more high-end cafes, most of whom said they use food gels for the vivid colours.

Some popular and reputed brands of food-grade colour gels and powders that are used are Americolor, founded in 1995 and Chefmaster, founded in 1938, both US-based companies. While these are made under the strictest regulations, one must always keep in mind that they will follow only the rules of the countries they are manufactured in.

Natural colouring options

It is easier for restaurants, as opposed to bakeries, to avoid artificial colours completely. The newly opened Topic Craft Bar and Kitchen in Banashankari uses natural colours in many different ways. "The recent ban on artificial colours by the Karnataka Government aligns perfectly with our philosophy, and it doesn't affect our operations at all," says Naveen Ramchandra, a partner. "We even infuse these natural ingredients in oils to create rich, natural colours that enhance our desserts. Like our sponge cake is made with beetroot while our yellow raita is tinted with turmeric oil. Our Iranian chicken boasts a rich red hue from the natural extract of Byadgi chillies, and the green oil we use for plating is made with the extract of fresh greens."

At Ishaara, a restaurant in Hebbal, the kitchen uses natural sources for their colours. "We extract colours from vegetables and fruits such as spinach, tomatoes, beetroot, berries," says Prashant Issar, director of Bellona Hospitality, the parent company. In the restaurant, they have a Goan green curry, and he tells us they use curry leaves and cilantro oil to achieve the bright green colour.

While there are many natural alternatives to artificial colours, they also have their advantages.

As with any other safety and health issue, it is always best to read the labels of what you are using, do your research, and only buy from trusted and hygienic sources.

Wafting island vibes

Valerie Chane Tef of Akoda, a musician from Reunion Island who was recently in the city, talks about her music and more

In sync (From left) Thomas Boude, Valerie Chane Tef and Eric Perez during their India tour. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

"My set list is a mix of songs from my latest album and the one before that but I also have a new song, *un cadeau* (a gift) for the people of India," says Valérie Chane Tef of Akoda, a band from Reunion Island.

Titled 'Bal Zétwal,' Valerie's song for India resonates with her ethos of world music and culture. Akoda itself is the name of a god in the Yoruba religion. "Reunion Island is a mix of four religions and four cultures – Indian, Chinese, French and African – and my music is about this. It too, is a mix. I compose because I want to put all my experiences, influences and inspiration into music," says Valerie.

Though it is her third visit to India, Valerie who was here for Fete De La Musique's World Music Day celebrations, was in Bengaluru for the first time. And though the traffic "is terrible" she says the Indian Music Experience Museum is "simply amazing."

Valerie, with percussionist Eric Perez and bassist Thomas Boude, are Akoda – known for their unique presentation of jazz creole. "For me it was important to share my music with the public," adds the musician, who was around 23 years old when she made a conscious decision to start performing on stage.

"I began playing the piano when I was seven, practising classical music. When I was studying in France, at the university in Bordeaux, I fell in love with the sounds of jazz."

"I realised then that I wanted to play jazz too. My teacher was from Madagascar and from him, as well as my first tour in Morocco with musicians from South America, I learned about world music," she says.

> **Loving is also about my family, humanity, my experiences with people. I share by singing what I see in my everyday life.**
>
> VALERIE CHANE TEF
> MUSICIAN

Despite her exposure to global influences, Valerie stays rooted in her culture. "I sing in Creole and it has been an essential part of my journey as a musician. I began adding words to my music only four years ago because I wanted to talk about who I am."

Besides, there are not too many Creole singers on the world stage.

And though most of her songs are about that eternal muse, love, Valerie says, "Loving is also about my family, humanity, my experiences with people. I share by singing what I see in my everyday life."

Talking about the musicians who were part of her India line-up, she says, "Though I met them quite recently, we share a similar vibe; it is necessary to be in sync with your bandmates. We have that harmony." She adds that Eric is a famous drummer who has collaborated with the top jazz names in France, while Thomas is, "passionate, with a mature palate in music".

Valerie's musical tastes range from the traditional music of Danyel Waro and Ziskakan, to contemporary musicians such as Billie Eilish, Margot Reisinger from Portugal, Cuban pianist Omar Sosa, and the all time greats – Mike Davies, John Coltrane and Ella Fitzgerald.

"I love world music and it shows in my work. I think that is also a reason why India responds to my music. It is a big country with a lot of diversity and people find a connect despite that."

Valerie believes in sharing her music, collaborating with Indian artistes and teaching interested parties. She can be contacted on kanaljazz.contact@gmailcom or artministration.booking@gmail.com.

STEPOUT

Lines and colours

Prussianblue Art Hub is hosting special art workshops featuring watercolours, focussing on portrait and landscape painting. Selected artists will have the chance to exhibit their work across India, including at Prussianblue's gallery in Kochi.

On July 13 and 14 at JRD Tata Nagar. For more information, call 8138033342.

Dogs on canvas

Join Sakena Begg for '#Muttsindahood,' an art tribute showcasing her watercolours and mixed media artworks featuring beloved neighbourhood canines. This event, hosted by The Little Art Class in Town, promises an afternoon filled with creativity and love for dogs.

On July 13, 4pm to 6pm at The Little Art Class In Town, Cooke Town.

‘Adjustment politics’ led to tepid show in LS polls, AICC panel told

‘Distribution of party ticket to children of Ministers led to the other Ministers showing indifference’

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The simmering internal differences in the Congress seem to have come out into the open with allegations being made before the AICC fact-finding committee of “adjustment politics” and “indifference to elections” shown by Ministers, leading to the tepid performance by the party in the Lok Sabha elections.

KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar with AICC leaders Madhusudan Mistry, Hibi Eden, and Gaurav Gogoi, at the party office in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Some senior Ministers have been accused of colluding with BJP and Janata Dal (S) and working against the Congress candidates resulting in defeat, party sources said. “The general feeling is that the Congress lost six to eight seats due to internal rift, jealousy, ego, and adjustments,” sources said.

Distribution of party ticket to children of Ministers led to the other Ministers showing “indifference” or “working against the party candidate”, all of which were conveyed to the fact-finding committee led by AICC general secretary Madhusudan Mistry on Thursday, the sources said.

Public spat

“One of the biggest reasons identified for the party’s under performance was the public spat between senior Ministers belonging to the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister camps over leadership tussle. Things that should have been spoken on the party platform were spoken in public, and the image of the party took a beating,” they said.

The Mistry committee is in Bengaluru to ascertain the reasons for the party’s performance despite the successful implementation of five guarantees promised during 2023 Assembly polls.

While the Congress increased its tally to nine in 2024 from one in 2019, it fell short of its expectation of winning 14 to 16 seats in Karnataka. The party conceded leads in more than 130 Assembly constituencies, including in over a dozen constituencies that are represented by Ministers.

Among the many other reasons for such a performance by the party that were cited, sources said, were lack of coordination between party and government, differences between party legislators and district in-charge Ministers, and district in-charge Ministers not helping party workers in getting their work done.

“The cadre that had enthusiastically worked in the 2023 Assembly elections stayed away from Lok Sabha elections at many places because they had been neglected by district in-charge Ministers. Also, the party workers failed to effectively communicate the benefits brought about by the guarantee schemes,” the sources said. They said that most of the interaction with Ministers, legislators, and senior leaders were held one on one while some of those who have made serious allegations against individual Ministers and legislators have been asked to give their grievances in writing.

“Though no immediate action is being contemplated, especially against the Ministers, it will be held against them during the Cabinet reshuffle in the future,” according to party sources.

Introspection will go on

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar’s interaction with the fact-finding committee will continue on Friday.

“From one seat in the previous Lok Sabha, the Congress has won nine seats now. We were expecting to win 15 seats in this election but it did happen. The introspection on where we slipped is happening. It is not only happening with respect to Karnataka but also across the country,” he told reporters here.

“The Chief Minister (Mr. Siddaramaiah) and I will also introspect on the reasons with leaders in the State. I will also send reports for four divisions (in the State), he added.”

‘Cong. will plan strategies to counter BJP-JD(S) alliance’

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said on Thursday that the Congress would plan strategies to counter the BJP-Janata Dal (Secular) alliance in the State.

He told reporters: “We knew from the beginning that the BJP-JD(S) alliance was strong. We are also aware that in future the two parties will remain together. Let them be like that. We (the Congress) will prepare ourselves.” Stating that the party had fielded the best candidates in the Lok Sabha elections, he said there was a need to understand the reasons behind the change of perception among people.

HC directs trial courts not to insist on bank guarantees for release of accused on bail

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed all trial courts in the State not to insist on furnishing bank guarantees for the release of the accused on grant of bail.

“This court is coming across a plethora of cases where the concerned trial courts while granting bail, are imposing a condition that the accused should furnish a bank guarantee of any quantum. This is, on the face of it, illegal. Such orders being passed have generated a lot of litigations,” the High Court observed. Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing a petition filed by one Vaibhavraj U. of Bengaluru.

The petitioner questioned the legality of the condition imposed by the trial court, asking him to furnish a bank guarantee for ₹50 lakh within three months of his release on bail as a condition for the grant of bail in a case of alleged misappropriation of about ₹1 crore from the fund belonging to a private trust.

The trial court initially asked him to furnish the bank guarantee for ₹1 crore and later reduced it to ₹50 lakh.

‘BJP unable to digest OBC leader being CM for second time’

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Calling the protest planned by the BJP in Mysuru on Friday over the alleged scam in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) as “politically motivated”, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday said it was “a drama” fuelled by those who are unable to digest the fact that a person from an OBC community had become the Chief Minister of Karnataka for the second time.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah receiving petitions from the public at his residence in Mysuru on Thursday. M.A. SRIRAM

Speaking to mediapersons in Mysuru, he sought to draw a distinction between irregularities in sites allotted under the 50:50 scheme by misusing the facility and MUDA compensating his wife for illegally occupying her land.

Mr. Siddaramaiah insisted that there was no wrongdoing with regard to sites allotted to his wife, Parvathi, by MUDA, which had illegally occupied her land. “Not only has the MUDA accepted its mistake in writing, but the authority agreed to compensate her for the loss by giving alternative sites,” said Mr. Siddaramaiah.

The precedent

The MUDA followed the precedent set in an earlier case of a landowner by name Sundaramma. Her land was also illegally occupied by MUDA and the High Court of Karnataka ordered the authority to grant the same extent of land to her, he pointed out.

The 50:50 scheme is applicable in case of property owners who surrender their land to MUDA, which allots 50% of the sites developed on the land in lieu of compensation. “In our case, we did not surrender the land. Our land was illegally occupied by MUDA. Hence, compensatory site allotment was made,” said Mr. Siddaramaiah.

‘Authority is rotten’

Notably, he admitted that administration of MUDA had deteriorated over the years. “The authority is rotten and needs to be cleansed. But that will be done only after the investigation is completed and a report is submitted to the government. The 50:50 scheme is in practice in all urban development authorities, and is beneficial to the authority concerned, but MUDA commissioners and others have misused the scheme,” he added.

Mr. Siddaramaiah questioned what MUDA members were doing when the land was illegally occupied, or when compensatory sites were allotted in lieu of the land which was developed and sold by MUDA. On pegging the value of the land as ₹60 crore, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, “As per the land acquisition Act, compensation has to be paid at thrice the market rate, including interest, all of which adds up to ₹62 crore.”

Congress knows how to counter BJP’s ‘politically motivated’ protest being held in Mysuru today, says Siddaramaiah

‘Prove allegations’

Responding to the BJP’s proposed protest, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, “Be it (State BJP president) B.Y. Vijayendra or (BJP national president) J.P. Nadda, we know to counter their politically motivated protests. If their argument is that the compensatory site allotted to my wife is illegal, let them prove their contention.”

MUDA irregularities: Yatnal seeks intervention of High Court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, BJP MLA, has sought the intervention of the Karnataka High Court with respect to the alleged irregularities in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

Letter to CJ

In a letter to the Chief Justice of the High Court, Mr. Yatnal has alleged that MUDA has witnessed irregularities, including illegal distribution of 3,000 sites in posh localities such as Vijayanagar 4th and 5th stages. This included the allotment of 14 alternative sites to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah’s wife, Parvathi, he said.

He appealed to the Chief Justice to initiate *suo motu* public interest litigation proceedings in this case and order a probe by the CBI into the alleged irregularities.

He appealed to the court to monitor the probe to ensure “impartiality and thoroughness”.

BJP to take up campaign against ‘diversion of funds’ meant for Dalit welfare for guarantee schemes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Apart from staging protests against the Congress government over the alleged irregularities in the Maharshi Valmiki ST Development Corporation and MUDA, the Opposition BJP has decided to launch a campaign against the alleged diversion of funds meant for Dalit welfare under the Scheduled Castes Sub-Allocation and Tribal-Sub Allocation (Planning, Allocation and Utilisation of Financial Resources) Act, 2013, for the guarantee schemes.

Protest on July 15

The BJP has decided to lay siege to the Vidhana Soudha on July 15, the first day of the monsoon session of the legislature, condemning what it calls the “anti-Dalit” policy of the State government. The BJP has decided to rope in its members from the SC/ST communities who have contested the local body elections to participate in the protest.

This would be followed by taluk-level campaigns by the party within July 30 to create public awareness about the alleged diversion of funds meant for Dalit welfare, it is learnt.

Office-bearers’ meeting

The decision was taken at a meeting of the party State office-bearers held in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Speaking to media persons on the sidelines of the office-bearers’ meeting, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra accused the Congress government of meting out injustice to Dalits by diverting funds meant for them. He alleged that the government had diverted ₹24,000 crore that had been earmarked for Dalit welfare under the SCSA & TSA scheme over the last two years for other purposes, including guarantees.

Referring to the alleged financial irregularities in the Maharshi development corporation, he alleged that the government was acting against the interests of STs. BJP State general secretary V. Sunil Kumar alleged that the Congress lacked commitment towards Dalits’ welfare though it claims to follow social justice.

Additional Regional Commissioner and Competent Authority,
Office of the Regional Commissioner, 2nd Floor, BMTC building, K.H Road, Shantinagar, Bengaluru-**27. Tel : 080 -22109670 e-mail: rcb27bangalore@gmail.com**

No:KPID/C.A/SMN/ 09/2023-24 **Date :11/07/2024**

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR CALLING CLAIMS RELATING TO SMN CREDIT SOUHARDHA SAHAKARI NIYAMITHA, VIJAYAPURA.

Public Notice under Section 7(2) of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors In Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE) calling for submission of claims from the secured creditors and depositors of SMN Credit Souhardha Sahakari Niyamitha, Vijayapura

Claim forms will be issued at the **office of the Municipal Corporation Vijayapura, old building Jalanagar, Bagalakot road, Vijayapura.** to the depositor/authorized representative/ nominee and in the absence of the nominee, the power of attorney holder on production of identity proof and proof of investment such as original copies of Bonds, official letter and PoA documents.

Starting date of issuing claim applications:	**22-07-2024**	**10:00 A.M**
Last date for submission of claim applications	**21-08-2024**	**05:30 P.M**

DOCUMENTS TO BE PRODUCED FOR VERIFICATION: 1. Original ID- Aadhar, PAN/EPIC along with photocopy for attestation. 2. Bank pass sheets 2 months prior to date of investment to till date in - SMN Credit Souhardha Sahakari Niyamitha, Vijayapura Duly attested by the bank manager to be furnished. 3. Copy of passbook with copy of pages showing KYC. 4. Original Bonds / Agreements / Notarized Affidavits/Other Substitute Documents issued. 5. General power of attorney in the case of Authorized Agent and statutory documents shall be produced in the original. 6. Where copies are allowed as support documents, either ink signed, attested clear xerox copy of every page shall be provided or original shall be provided alongside xerox copy for attestation by concerned officer. Scans / Whats App copies are not acceptable. 7. Passbook issued by the financial establishment

In case of death or hospitalization of the depositor, his nominees/heirs have to submit the following documents as proof for their identity and investment.

Sl. No	Depositors/ Depositor's Nominees	Documents to be submitted.
1	Depositors	Depositors should submit the documents duly notarised with Notary/Gazetted Officer/and with self-declaration.
2	Nominees	1. Death certificate of the depositor 2. Family tree (To be obtained from Tahsildar) 3. Nominee should self-attest the above documents.
3	Legal heirs	1. Death Certificate of the depositor 2. Family tree (To be obtained from the Tahsildar) 3. Death certificate of the specific nominee 4. Legal heir's Certificate– Court Order 5. Legal heir should submit self-attested copies of the above documents. 6. Consent from other Legal heirs.
4	PoA – Power of Attorney	1 Documents supporting hospitalization of the depositor. (In case of critical illness, a report from Medical Officer should be submitted) 2. Apostilled copy of citizen card and passport in case of depositor residing outside India. 3. For Sl. No. (1) and (2) Notarised Power of Attorney Certificate should be submitted. 4. PoA holder should submit self-attested copies of the above documents.
5	Guardian of minor	1. Death certificate of depositor. 2. Death certificate of Nominee. 3. Document regarding appointment of guardian. 4. Self-attested documents of the above.

Applicants submitting the claim applications should submit the below mentioned documents as proof of investments.

Sl. No	Depositors/ Depositor's Nominees	Documents to be submitted.
1	Savings Deposit	1. Copy of front page of passbook with photograph. 2. Savings Deposit Passbook issued by the financial establishment 3. Transaction Statement page in Passbook of claimed amount. *Depositors/Nominees/Legal Heirs/PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary/Gazetted Officers/self.
2	Fixed Deposit and other related Schemes	1. Copy of front page of passbook with photograph. 2. Deposit Bond/ Certificate/Fixed Deposit Certificate/ Other documents 3. Transaction Statement page in Passbook of claimed amount. *Depositors/Nominees/Legal Heirs/PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary/Gazetted Officers/self.
3	Recurring Deposit	1. Copy of front page of passbook with photograph. 2. Cumulative Deposit Certificate 3. Transaction Statement page in Passbook of claimed amount. *Depositors/Nominees/Legal Heirs/ PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary/ Gazetted Officers/self.
4	Supporting Documents	1. Copy of front page of passbook with photograph. 2. Recurring Deposit Passbook issued by the financial establishment. 3. Transaction Statement page in Passbook of claimed amount. *Depositors/Nominees/Legal Heirs/PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary/Gazetted Officers/self.
5	(Haripriya and Samrudhi Cash Certificate)	1. Copy of front page of passbook with photograph. 2. Certificate/Passbook issued by the said financial establishment. 3. Transaction Statement page in Passbook of claimed amount. *Depositors/Nominees/Legal Heirs/ PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary/ Gazetted Officers/self.

- Any application received after the last date fixed for submission of claims under Section 7(3) of the KPIDFE Act shall not be accepted under the provisions of the Act.
- Any claim based on concocted documents or forged documents shall be rejected and criminal action will be initiated against such applicants.
- For more information regarding the procedures for submission of applications, applicants may contact the **Additional Regional Commissioner, Office of the Regional Commissioner and Competent Authority 2nd Floor, BMTC building, K.H Road, Shantinagar, Bengaluru-27 and for Further information visit website http://rcb.karnataka.gov.in or http://sploca.karnataka.gov.in**
- Applicants who have invested in more than one scheme in SMN Credit Souhardha Sahakari Niyamitha, Vijayapura. must submit the claims in separate applications.

Sd/-
Competent Authority
for SMN Credit Souhardha Sahakari Niyamitha,Vijayapura
O/o Regional Commissioner, Bengaluru Division, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/898/MAA/24-25

Bengaluru start-up marries tech and chess, builds personalised AI chess coach

Ironically, while young chess prodigies seem to be flourishing in the country, the technology around the sport has not picked up much. A city start-up is trying to bridge this gap

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Imaging: Sebastian Francis

The 'children' of Vishy Anand are on the loose!" was what the legendary Garry Kasparov remarked on social media platform X after 17-year-old Gukesh became the youngest player to win The Candidates Chess tournament. Gukesh who broke the 40-year-old record of the 61-year-old Kasparov is one of the students from the first batch of WestBridge Anand Chess Academy started by India's first grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand.

India has come a long way from 1987 when Vishy bagged the title. Today the country boasts of 84 grand masters.

Ironically, while young chess prodigies seem to be flourishing in the country, the technology around the sport has not picked up much. Bengaluru-based start-up CircleChess founded by chess parents Kumar Gaurav and Swati Agarwal is trying to bridge this gap.

Easy to learn, difficult to master

Kumar Gaurav, co-founder of CircleChess, is the father of two teenagers who are active chess players. Noticing the lack of technology in the ecosystem, he sensed an opportunity to build a technology product for the larger chess community.

But that wasn't the only reason he co-founded the start-up with Swati Agarwal.

"The second trigger was that my sons were not able to improve with usual methods of learning chess," Gaurav recollects.

"I had switched quite a few coaches back then. Eventually, I realised that chess is a sport that is easy to learn, but difficult to master. So, I started thinking about chess technology and whether I could build something which would help my children."

A techie, two-time founder, and previously the CTO at WakeFit, Gaurav set on to build a product that could help to not only learn chess, but also improve one's chess skills. This was the first version of CircleChess built on a reward-base framework.

"I built a tool which could be used by the kids every day."

"After they play games on chess.com, they can analyse the game and solve the mistakes using the tool. If they solve all the mistakes they would get points," Gaurav explains.

The thought process was that if a player progressed by consistently correcting the mistakes they made, they would be able to improve. Given that the majority of chess players in India are kids, Gaurav, who himself is an internationally rated chess player, felt an incentivisation framework may work better. And it did.

His sons who religiously used the tool improved 400-500 rating points on Chess.com in about 4-5 months.

Expanding the scope

The next step was to address the problems of offline professional chess players.

Within the larger chess community, discovery was a major pain point. Players faced challenges in finding a tournament, understanding which tournament one could play, and registering for the same. Gaurav and his team therefore built a whatsApp bot as a one-stop solution for seamlessly facilitating activities of chess players.

"If you are playing a tournament, there may be 6-7 rounds. After each, the player must constantly refresh the website to see if the results have been declared. We built a tool which would send them notifications on WhatsApp as soon as something was published," Gaurav says.

CircleChess team

"Registration was another problem. How do I discover a tournament, in which part of the city it is happening, what is the type of event, what are the dates and timelines like - all these were not easy to spot. People had to check multiple websites."

"So, we extended the bot from just having a pairing notification feature to tournament discovery and registration. It allows people to register within 10 seconds."

Over the course, more features such as finding a coach, finding someone to practice with, and so on were added to the WhatsApp Assistant. According to the team, its user base has organically grown to around 30,000 people in the last seven months and more than 100 users are being acquired every day.

The start-up which also built a tournament management SaaS for event organisers has tied up with the Delhi Chess Association as the latter's official technology partner.

Both the products - the WhatsApp assistant as well as the tournament management product - are available free of cost.

Building an AI chess coach

While the WhatsApp Assistant and the SaaS product have been built for the community, the core of CircleChess is an AI personalised chess coach named Caissa.

"The AI model links all your chess accounts on different platforms and brings all your games to a single point. It would then do a detailed analysis of all your games and spot your strengths and weaknesses. Based on this, personalised goals and training plan would be set for the player," Gaurav explains.

A platform to track the progress of the player has also been built into this and parental controls have been integrated.

"In chess, there is no standard assessment framework that exists as of now. We have built a one-of-a-kind assessment engine as part of Caissa. It is useful to all levels of players - whether you want to use it for assessment, learning, content, everything," claims Gaurav.

Breaking the monopoly

Tarun Mittal, founding member at CircleChess, points out that technology in online chess has been more or less dominated by U.S.-based Chess.com leading to monopoly and lack of innovation. Offline chess tournaments on the other hand are still being managed by technology built in the early 2000s which leaves a lot of gaps, he notes.

"There is no chess learning platform in the market today that guarantees improvement. That's what Caissa does," Mittal says, also noting that the model has been built with inputs from coaches of leading players like Praggnanandha, Gukesh and Arjun.

Aiding coaches

Vishnu Prasanna, Grandmaster in 2013 and coach of Gukesh, is the chief chess officer at CircleChess. He feels Caissa could be a solution to one of the major problems in the Indian chess ecosystem - that is too many players and too few coaches.

"As a coach, you cannot be everywhere. The ratio of coaches to students is low in India. Caissa would help the coaches arrive at certain conclusions much faster and help the students accordingly. This solves a lot of problems for coaches, and they can work with a greater number of students this way than they could manually," Prasanna says.

Talking from experience, he notes that whether a student lands the right coach or not is a hit or miss often.

This has the potential to build or destroy careers. According to him, CircleChess's community initiatives help to solve this by giving players as well as coaches more exposure. Yet another aspect is the high-level insights Caissa provides at a very small price, he notes.

Group coaching in India varies between ₹300-1000 per person per class. Private lessons could be between ₹800-5000. CircleChess team is trying to bring it down to about 1/5th of the existing fees, and monthly subscription plans would be made available for ₹300-700, says Gaurav. Caissa, which is currently in its beta phase, is getting ready for a global launch in July.

CII organises real estate conclave

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

CII Karnataka organised the first edition of the CII Karnataka Real Estate Conclave 2024 "Karnataka Horizon: Navigating Real Estate Excellence in the South" today at Bengaluru.

The conclave took up key themes of sustainable urban development, the pivotal role of connectivity in urban growth, unlocking Karnataka's real estate potential through future mobility, the impact of ESG considerations on real estate development, and innovative investments in Karnataka's real estate through smart living and integrated townships, as the State continues to remain a hub for industrial activity, said a release.

"At CII Karnataka, we are committed to fostering a vibrant and holistic environment that nurtures competitiveness, innovation, and sustainability. As we focus on creating globally competitive ecosystems, the real estate sector, with its pivotal role in urban mobility and economic activities, stands at the forefront of our agenda," said N. Venu, Chairman, CII Karnataka State Council 2024-25 .

HC issues notice to State govt. on Uber's appeal on cap imposed on service charge for app-based autorickshaws

A single judge had upheld the November 2022 notification capping the service charge/commission at 5%, plus applicable GST on the base fare fixed by the government for autorickshaws

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Division Bench of the High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday ordered issue of notice to the State government on an appeal challenging single judge's order upholding the cap imposed by the Government on service charge/commission to be collected by mobile app-based transport aggregators to offer autorickshaw services through their platforms.

The Division Bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjari and Justice K.V. Aravind passed the order on an appeal filed by Uber India Services Pvt. Ltd.

The company has questioned the May 27 judgement of a single judge, who had dismissed its petition, along with the petitions filed by two other transport aggregators.

The single judge had upheld the Government's November, 2022, notification capping the service charge/commission at 5%, plus applicable GST, on the base fare fixed by the government for autorickshaws.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjari and Justice K.V. Aravind, passed the order on an appeal filed by Uber India Services Pvt. Ltd. K. MURALI KUMAR

Service of an aggregator

Senior Advocate Sajan Poovayya, appearing for Uber, contended that the single judge, among others aspects, has also erroneously held that company is providing transport service even though is providing service of an aggregator, such a finding by the single could open penal action against the company no one could operate transport service without obtaining permit under the Motor Vehicle Act.

The CCI

Pointing out that the single judge had order for sending the copy of the judgement to the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to examine the allegation of the Association of permit holders/drivers that aggregators are abusing their dominant position in the market, Mr. Poovayya sought intervention of the Bench before the CCI initiates any proceeding.

Govt's appeal

Meanwhile, the Advocate-General Shashi Kiran Shetty said that the Government is not proposing any action against the aggregators at present as the Government is also filing an appeal against the single judge's decision of holding that aggregators are not required to seek separate licence for offering different categories of vehicles through their platforms. The government's contention is that the aggregators are required to take separate licences for cars, autorickshaws, two wheelers, etc., said the A-G while request the bench to hear both the appeals together.

The bench adjourned further hearing till July 26.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 12, 1974

Farmers Advised to Make Optimum Use of Inputs

Bangalore, July 11: The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi to-day advised the farmers to make maximum use of the available agricultural inputs like water, fertilisers, and seeds.

Inaugurating the State Farmers' Delegates Convention organised by the Karnataka Pradesh Krishik Samaj at the Lalbagh here, the Prime Minister stressed that increased agricultural production was essential for self-reliance. It was equally necessary to see that whatever was produced was distributed equitably to the community. Foodgrains were not coming to the market to-day. A way should be found to approach farmers directly to get foodgrains. She referred to the two big droughts and said while there was shortage of wheat and coarse grains there was no shortage of potatoes.

Suggestions to Fight Inflation Put Forward

Bangalore, July 11: Abolition of permits, quotas and licences permitting companies to give donations to political parties and bringing down the rate of taxation were suggested here to-day by Dr. R.C. Cooper, Chartered Accountant of Bombay, to fight inflation.

He was speaking on "A package plan for fighting inflation" under the auspices of the Forum of Free Enterprise.

Dr. Cooper said that the Company Law should be amended once again to permit companies to give donations to political parties. Such a move would not compel politicians to depend on cash contributions from businessmen.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

IN SHORT

Many surfing centres in Mangaluru

Mantra Surf Club was the first to start surfing training in the Mangaluru region. Among the new centres in Mangaluru are Indica, Mangaluru Surf Club and Waves Surf School. Kadal Surf school and The Shaka Surf Club are located in Udupi. The surfing centres have become a great way to meet fellow surfers and also participate in surfing sport.

When water sports first started

Water sports activities first started in Malpe in Udupi district. Panambur and Tannirbhavi beaches in Mangaluru are also holding these activities. Boating, jet-sking and other adventure water sports activities recently started in the backwaters of Souparnika River in Maravanthe of Udupi district. Mangaluru, with its decorative beaches, attracts a lot of tourists.

Scuba diving in Udupi district

Kaup beach in Udupi district is developing into a destination for scuba diving. The newly-elected Byndoor MLA Gururaj Gantihole recently did scuba diving to launch his 'Explore Byndoor' initiative for promoting tourist places of his constituency. The beach has a rich marine life that makes it ideal for scuba diving sport.

Mangaluru marathon on November 10

The third edition of annual Mangaluru Marathon will be held on November 10. The event to be held in picturesque locations of Mangaluru will have full marathon (42.195 km), 20 miler (32 km), half marathon (21.0975 km), 10K, 5K, and a special Gammath Runs. Participants can register for the marathon through WhatsApp.

Mangaluru triathlon to draw many

Two editions of Mangaluru Triathlon have drawn participants from across the country. Triathlon involves 1.5 km swimming in the sea, followed by 40 km cycling and 10 km of running. The event is being held to generate funds for Cancer Palliative Care Centre of Tapasya Foundation. The event also had fun cycling event for kids aged 10 to 16 years.

A rising hub for surfing, Mangaluru attracts enthusiasts from all over

Sasihitlu beach near Mangaluru is already a surfing destination and the govt. has envisioned to make it an international hub for the sport with regular events

Raghava M.
MANGALURU

Mangaluru is not new to Kushal Gowda, a builder and resident of Jayanagar 5th block in Bengaluru. He stayed in this coastal city for two years his college days, a decade ago.

In order to spend some time with his friends in this coastal city, Gowda and his four friends from Bengaluru recently visited the city during the Mangaluru round of the 5th Indian Open of Surfing series held at the pristine Sasihitlu beach, 5 km off National Highway 66 at Mukka on the outskirts of Mangaluru.

Having learnt surfing a year ago, Gowda and his friends took surf boards on rent and joined other surfing enthusiasts to enjoy surfing at one part of Sasihitlu beach. Gowda and friends then had first hand glimpse of the skills of surfers from across the country who took part in the surfing competition held between May 31 to June 2.

A good number surfers from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and other parts of the county took part in this premier event that was organised by Surfing Foundation of India (SFI) in association with Surfing Swami Foundation and Mantra Surf Club. "When we held the first event in 2010-11 in Sasihitlu, there were only a few active surfers.

A participant in action during the 5th Indian Open of Surfing competition on Sasihitlu beach in Mangaluru. H.S. MANJUNATH

Sasihitlu beach decked up during the 5th Indian Open of Surfing competition. H.S. MANJUNATH

Participants from the 5th Indian Open of Surfing competition. H.S. MANJUNATH

A surfer at Sasihithlu beach. H S MANJUNATH

Now there are more than 4,000 active surfers spread across the country and their skill sets are really unmatched," said SFI Contest Director Kiran Kumar, who was among the first few professional surfers of the county.

Top honours

Surfers from Tamil Nadu dominated in the three-day event. They swept the top honours in all the four categories - Men's Open, Women's Open, Groms Boys & U-16 and Groms Girls & U-16. Ajeesh Ali, who competed in Paris Olympics and qualifiers last year, was crowned as the new champion in the Men's Open category. Teenage sensation Kamali Moorthi was topper in the Women's Open and Groms Girls & U-16 categories. Another teenager Tayin Arun was adjudged champion in the Groms Boys & U-16 category. Thrilled over being crowned as a champion in the Men's Open category, Ajeesh Ali said with slow waves it was in challenging conditions in the which the final event was held. "I had a board specifically for such conditions. The competition was fierce as my fellow surfers were among the best in the country," he said. Ali has been a regular visitor to Sashitlu. "The waves here are not consistent. Sasihitlu is ideal for training in surfing," he said.

Reiterating the challenges of surfing in Sasihitlu, Class 10 student Kamali Moorthi said it is tricky to get into the waters. "Once you got through it, it is the skills that matter," she said. "I enjoy surfing in Mangaluru. The finals of Women's Open category this time was challenging as 2022 champion Sugar Banarse was competing. I stayed clam to emerge as a topper."

Among others surfers who impressed in the competition include M. Manikandan from Tamil Nadu, who finished sixth in an International Stand Up Paddling (SUP) event held in March. "In Mangaluru we encounter 'A' frame waves by which we can show surfing skills on the left and right sides," he said. Manikandan is from the fishermen community and good number of surfers from Tamil Nadu are from this community. "Ocean is our mother and we really enjoy being in the sea," said Manikandan.

The 15-year-old Class 9 student, Stefano Alvares from Goa, was among those participating in the competition in Sasihitlu for the first time. Though challenging, Alvares said he really enjoyed surfing in Sasihitlu. The 19-year-old Afeef from Lakshadweep, who is working as instructor Kayak Boys Surfs Club of Mangaluru, also participated in the competition for the first time. Among the other first timers included 12-year-old Yogesh from Kovalam, who, incidentally, was among the two youngest participants of the competition.

Local surfers too

The competition featured several local surfers including Sinchana D. Gowda from Puttur, who had stood first in the women's open category of the open surfing competition held in Sasihitlu in 2016. She started surfing when she was in Class 7. "It was pure passion for the sport that made me come all way from Puttur and excel in it." Sinchana, a B.Com graduate, who has now relocated to Mangaluru and is continuing with surfing in association with Mantra Surf Club, said. She was a participant in the open women's category.

Second year Pre-University student Tushanth Poojary of Sasihitlu ably displayed his surfing skills in the competition. "I have been into surfing for the last three years. This event has given good opportunity for me to test my skills alongside the best surfers," Tushanth Poojary said.

Judges Samai Reboul from Auroville and Dylan Amar from Indonesia said athletes put up an impressive show in the challenging conditions during the three days of the competition. "If they maintain this level of effort, Indian surfers could soon make it to the Olympics," Dylan Amar said.

Many clubs emerge

Former Chief Executive Officer of Panambur Beach Development Project Yatish Baikampady, who has been associated with surfing in the city for nearly a decade, said Mangaluru has now turned into surfing destination. Since Jack Hebner aka Surfing Swami started Mantra Surf Club in 2007, a lot has changed with a significant increase in surfing clubs in and around Mangaluru. There are a good number of local surfers. The Sasihitlu Anjeneya Vyama Shale is set to start surfing school shortly and it will involve more locals in surfing. The Government should take an interest in promoting surfing as a livelihood, which will prompt more fishermen to take up surfing. The government should also give subsidy for purchase of surf boards, he said.

Dakshina Kannada Deputy Commissioner M.P. Mullai Muhilan said Sasihitlu is already a surfing destination in the country. The Government has envisioned to make Sasihitlu as an international hub for Surfing and Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) surfing. Surfing, SUP events and other sporting events will be part of the annual calendar of events. The government has planned to create an ecosystem for the locals to take up surfing. Regular surfing and other sporting events will go a long way in boosting tourism economy of the region, he said.

Basavaraj Rayaraddi

Not easy to find money for development works, says Rayaraddi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's economic adviser and MLA for Yelburga Basavaraj Rayaraddi on Thursday said the guarantee schemes for which large allocation had to be set aside had made it difficult to find resources for all other development works.

Mr. Rayaraddi, at an event at Mangaluru village in Yelburga taluk of Koppal district, said, "The State is spending between ₹60,000 crore and ₹65,000 crore for the guarantee schemes due to which, finding money for all other things is not easy. Apart from me, who is a financial adviser to the CM and interacts with him daily, no MLAs were able to secure funds for development activities."

Mr. Rayaraddi emphasised that it has become nearly impossible for MLAs to secure funds for works in their constituencies. "Internally, I know the financial stress," he said.

NGT takes cognisance of report on trees chopped near Talacauvery sanctuary

'The matter indicates violation of provisions of the Environment Protection Act, 1986, and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980'

THE HINDU IMPACT

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has taken *suo motu* cognisance of a report published by *The Hindu* that several trees have allegedly been felled and burnt near the Talacauvery Wildlife Sanctuary in Kodagu district.

On May 14, *The Hindu* published a report 'Environment activists alarmed as trees chopped and burnt near Talacauvery Wildlife Sanctuary in Kodagu'. It highlighted that the Mundrote Forest Range, where the alleged illegal activity took place, is known for its rich flora, including 6,000 species of trees and plants. It further highlighted that the burning of trees could have resulted in a forest fire with potentially serious ecological repercussions. The area is recognised as one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Karnataka and is characterised by dense evergreen forests that have largely remained untouched.

The report published on May 14, 2024 highlighted that the Mundrote Forest Range, where the alleged illegal activity took place, is known for its rich flora, including 6,000 species of trees and plants. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Bench has impleaded the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest of Karnataka, the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, and the Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate, Kodagu.

Environment activists in Kodagu had alleged that the accused have cleared more than five acres of reserve forest and that the Forest Department had failed to control this kind of activities over the time.

"As per the article, the Kodagu district is suffering from environmental issues for some time now. This year, amidst a severe drought, several trees were allegedly felled and burnt near the Talacauvery Wildlife Sanctuary in the Mundrote Range of the Padinalkunadu Reserve Forest," the NGT stated in the order.

"The matter indicates violation of the provisions of the Environment Protection Act, 1986, and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The news item raises substantial issue relating to compliance of the environmental norms and implementation of the provisions of scheduled enactment," the NGT order noted.

Meanwhile, following *The Hindu* report, on May 15, Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar B. Khandre ordered a probe led by Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, into alleged felling and burning of several trees.

In an order dated May 15, Mr. Khandre said that the media had highlighted the cutting down of numerous trees. According to the order, officials failed to apprise the Minister of the same.

"Immediately, an Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest-level official should be sent to the spot to investigate how many trees have been cut, and submit a geo-tagged video and report in the next three days," he stated. The Minister has also stated that disciplinary action is to be taken against officials who failed to inform his office about the incident.

Centre is withholding funds for projects, charges Stalin

The Hindu Bureau
DHARMAPURI

Smarting from the crushing defeat in Tamil Nadu in the Lok Sabha poll, the Centre (BJP government) was withholding funding for the State's Metro Rail and other projects, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin alleged here on Thursday.

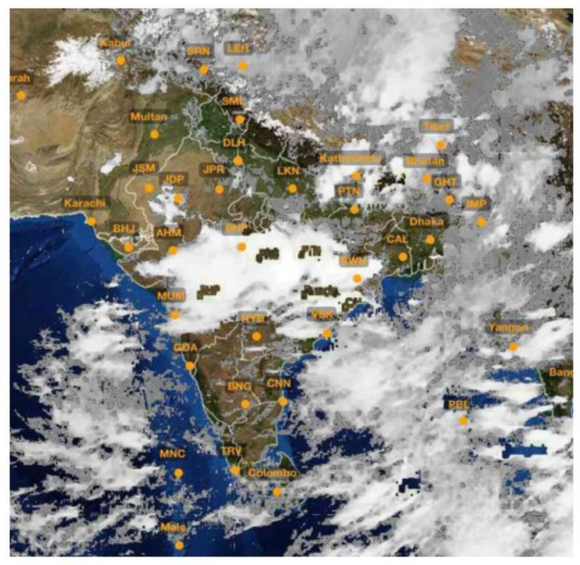
While the DMK government was implementing projects for the welfare of people, irrespective of the voting pattern, the "jealous" Opposition was into a smear campaign, he charged. The Centre had failed to rise above likes and dislikes; there was not a single major project the Centre had sanctioned for Tamil Nadu in the last 10 years. "On behalf of the people of the State, I urge the Union government to learn a lesson at least now", the Chief Minister said after launching the rural extension of 'Makkaludan Mudhalvar' scheme to redress people's grievances through coordination of 13 departments, in 30 days of submission of petitions.

According to him, the DMK government was treading the path of 'Makkalidam Sel, Makkalai Patri Arindhukol, Makkalukkaga Seyalpadu' (go to the people, know them and work for them). This path was delineated by former Chief Ministers Arignar Anna (C. N. Annadurai) and Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi. The people were reciprocating well, Mr. Stalin said, citing a couple of instances of the direct response he had received from petitioners owing to the redressal of grievances of the public through the Mudhalvanin Mugavari Department.

The people were with the government and vice-versa. The government would continue striving to bring about real growth and make Tamil Nadu the best State in the country. "This is the reason for the success of the Dravida Model; the Union government has to learn a lesson at least now," Mr. Stalin said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	11	34.5	25.8	Kozhikode	5	33.6	25.8
Ahmedabad	—	36.7	28.4	Kurnool	—	36.7	26.3
Aizawl	0.2	31.3	24.4	Lucknow	10	36.5	27.4
Allahabad	—	37.3	28.5	Madurai	3.6	38.5	26.1
Bengaluru	—	29.6	21.5	Mangaluru	1	29.5	23.8
Bhopal	15	31.5	25.2	Mumbai	19	28.6	24.2
Bhubaneswar	—	35.8	27.9	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	11	38.1	29.8	New Delhi	15.1	38.8	27.2
Chennai	—	31.8	24.2	Patna	—	34.9	28.0
Coimbatore	—	32.4	23.5	Port Blair	20.8	30.0	24.1
Dehradun	48	33.6	22.8	Puducherry	—	32.6	26.4
Gangtok	6	20.7	18.3	Pune	1	32.1	24.5
Goa	47	30.1	23.7	Raipur	1.4	33.2	26.3
Guwahati	3	31.5	27.0	Ranchi	—	33.3	25.4
Hubballi	—	28.0	23.0	Shillong	5	24.4	18.7
Hyderabad	—	34.5	24.5	Shimla	—	29.2	22.0
Imphal	3	30.9	23.1	Srinagar	—	34.0	18.1
Jaipur	—	38.5	28.6	Thiruvananthapuram	0.3	33.1	24.8
Kochi	—	30.8	26.0	Tiruchi	—	36.7	26.4
Kohima	5	21.9	18.0	Vijayawada	—	36.4	27.6
Kolkata	—	37.0	28.6	Visakhapatnam	—	33.8	27.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.12	..66	.20	53	63	.....
Bengaluru	.10	..25	.27	32	...110	.....
Chennai	...1	..10	.62	...118	96	.....
Delhi	.22	..15	.53	...123	...160	.....
Hyderabad	.11	..11	.25	...105	91	.....
Kolkata	...8	..26	.44	48	52	.....
Lucknow	...8	7	107	47	75	.....
Mumbai	.13	..22	.42	62	85	.....
Pune	..—	..42	.67	42	49	.....
Visakhapatnam	...9	..53	.18	69	...118	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 281 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Telangana SIB former chief denies phone tapping allegations

Press Trust of India
HYDERABAD

The former chief of Telangana's Special Intelligence Bureau (SIB), T. Prabhakar Rao, a key accused in the phone-tapping case, has denied the allegations made against him and termed them "wild and false".

The retired police officer, who is in the U.S. for "medical treatment", recently wrote to the investigating officer of the case, asserting that he had neither committed nor directed anyone to commit any illegal acts or omissions while discharging his duties as a police officer at any time, including as the chief of the Special Intelligence Bureau.

Doctors' advice

"My consulting doctors advised me not to travel out of the USA till my health has completely stabilised as it may have grave consequences if not diagnosed and treated on time," Mr. Rao said.

Arrests made

A suspended DSP of the SIB, two Additional Superintendents of Police, and a former Deputy Commissioner of Police have been arrested by the Hyderabad Police since March 13 for allegedly erasing the intelligence information from various electronic gadgets as well as for alleged phone tapping during the previous BRS regime.

The former SIB chief said he was "prepared to assist in the investigation in any kind of questioning over video conferencing or teleconferencing."

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Ballari Thermal Power Station)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only) (Two Cover System)

Sealed bids are invited through KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from the reputed agencies / firm having adequate experience in the thermal power plant for the following works. **1) KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT1713 Dated: 09.07.2024** Casting & Machining and installing of equalizer valve assy., scat & Disc for Unit-1 Ash handling system (1X500MW) BTPS, KPCL. **Total Amount put to tender: Rs. 18,00,950/-. EMD: Rs. 45,025/-. 2) KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT1716 Dated: 09.07.2024** Repair, servicing and replacement of spares for instrument air compressor (ESP) for Ash handling system of unit-1 (1x500 MW) BTPS Kudathini. **Total Amount put to tender: Rs. 16,58,490/-. EMD: Rs. 41,500/-. Last date & Time for on-line submission of tenders: 18.07.2024 up to 4:00 pm.** Further details can be obtained from office of The Executive Engineer (AHP)-1 BTPS, Kudathini-583152, Ballari (Dist), Karnataka Mobile No: 9448290768.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, South Zone, 9th Cross, 9th Main, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560 011.
No. SADH(S)TENDER/08/2024-25 Date: 11.07.2024
Invitation for Tender (IFT), (Short Term)
(Two Cover System) Through GOK KPP Portal only
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South), (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to Implement in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies/ Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour Department for Maintenance of Parks.

Sl. No.	Name of work / Category
1.	Landscape Development, Beautification and Water Facilities at Koramangala Ward No. 174 and B.T.M. Layout Ward No. 181 Parks (Rectangular Park, 8th Main Near Hopcoms Park, K.H.B. Colony Park Part-1, 2 & 3, Shakthi Ganapathi Temple backside and Opp Park), **Estimate Cost : 99,99,388/-, EMD Amount: 2,00,000/-. (Others).**
2.	Landscape Development, Beautification and Water Facilities at B.T.M. Layout, Ward No. 181 Parks (Mini Forest Park Part-1&2. N.S. Palya Park), **Estimate Cost : 99,99,536/-, EMD Amount: 2,00,000/-. (SC).**
3.	Landscape Development, Beautification and Water Facilities at Ejipura Ward No. 173 and Adugodi Ward No. 176 Parks (Yamuna Block Park NGV Ejipura, Prakruthivana Adugodi), **Estimate Cost : 99,99,810/-, EMD Amount: 2,00,000/-. (Others).**

Calendar of Events: (1) Date of Notification : **11.07.2024. (2)** Tender can be downloaded from: **15.07.2024. (3)** Pre bid meeting : **20.07.2024 at 4:00 p.m. (4)** Tender Closing Date : **31.07.2024 at 4:00 p.m. (5)** Technical bid opening Date : **01.08.2024 at 4:30 p.m. (6)** Financial bid opening Date : **Ater approval of Technical bid. (7)** This tender notice can also be seen on the BBMP **website: www.bbmp.gov.in.**
Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, South Zone, BBMP.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH RAICHUR
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DIVISION RAICHUR
NO./EE/RDWS&S/RCR/TS/JJM/2024-25/e-Tender/ DATED : 08-07-2024
TENDER Notification

The Executive Engineer RDWS & S Division Raichur invites tenders from eligible tenderers Registered under e-procurement civil contractors in Panchayath Engineering Department, for Providing water supply scheme to below works, as per KW-1, 2, 3 & 4 Standard Bid Document Under KKRDB & JJM 2022-23 GOI&GOK Fund (90%) &Community Contribution (10%) Grant. The tenderers may submit tenders for the works given in the table in GOK e- Procurement platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed.

1) Notification Date: 08-07-2024 2) Download of tender schedule documents online: 09-07-2024 3) Last date for receiving of filled tender documents:18-07-2024 at 4:30 PM 4) Opening of Technical bid: 19-07-2024 at 5:30 PM 5) Opening of Financial bid: 20-07-2024 at 5:30 PM

Indent Nos.: Deodurga :8239 SC Reserved, 8240 **Lingasugur:** 8228, 8229, 8230, 8246, 8247, 8248, 8249, 8250, 8251, 8252, 8254 **Manvi:** 8231 ST Reserved, 8232, 8233 **Raichur:** 8234, 8235, 8236 SC Reserved **Sindhanur:** 8237 SC Reserved, 8240

More details can be had from the Office of the under signed and also through our website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ by clicking the List of Tenders which will be link all Dept. works list

DIP/RCR/88/KSMC&A/87/2024-25
Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDWS&S. Divn, Raichur

TIDEL PARK LTD.
(An ISO 9001/14001/45001 Company)
CIN No. U74999TN1997PLC039523
No.4, RAJIV GANDHI SALAI, TARAMANI, CHENNAI - 600 113
Email: tenders@tidelpark.com / www.tidelpark.com
TENDER NO: TIDEL / 2024-25 / 06
TIDEL invites E-Tender for the following works:
1. Construction of AEROHUB Project, at Plot No. L-5, SIPCOT Aerospace Park, Vallam Vadagal, Sriperumbudur, Kanchipuram District as detailed below:
a) Civil, Plumbing, STP, Sump and utility building
b) External facade,facade access and signage works.
c) Road parking and filling works
d) Compound wall and soil nailing
e) Landscaping works.

For more details and participation in the above E -Tender, please visit the website **https:www.tntenders.gov.in/**. Last date for online submission of duly filled in Tender documents is 3.00 pm on 12-08-2024 TIDEL reserves the right to accept/reject any one /all tenders without assigning any reason thereof
DIPR/2301/TENDER/2024 **Managing Director**

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Traffic (Com) Department, 2nd Floor, Shanthinagar TTMC, K.H. Road, Bengaluru-560027. Telephone No: 080-22537575
Website : **www.mybmtc.com** e-mail : **ctmc@mybmtc.com**
No. BMTC: CO: TR: COM:1577:1608:2024-25 Dated: 11.07.2024
TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 05/2024-25
(e-Procurement Platform)

Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation invites offers/bids from the interested Persons/Agency for **Providing Operation & Maintenance of Toilet Complex of Kempegowda Bus Station, Kalasipalya Bus Station, BTM Layout Bus Station, Kengeri TTMC and Shivajinagar Bus Station through e-procurement platform.** Date of Pre-Bid meeting: **19.07.2024 at 15:00 hrs**. Place: **Mini-Meeting hall, 4th Floor, Central Offices, BMTC, Shanthinagar.** Last date & time for submission of bids is on: **26.07.2024 up to 17:00 hrs.** Opening of Technical bids is on: **29.07.2024 at 11:30 hrs.** Opening of Financial bids: **To be Intimated later.** Further details in this regard can be obtained in the e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or by Contacting:080-46010000; 080-68948777; 080-22483777 or 7760997519, 7760991222 & 7760991026. **E-mail: ctmc@mybmtc.com.**
Sd/- Chief Traffic Manager (Com) (Tender inviting Authority)

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ರಾಯಚೂರು.
ಕಛೇರಿ:235306 E-Maill.ld-apmcraichur@rediffmail.com, apmcrcr@gmail.com
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ: ಕೃಉಮಾಸ/ರಾ/ವಾಕ್ರಯೋ/ 336 /2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09–07–2024
–: ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ:–

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1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: ರಾಯಚೂರು ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿಯ 2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೀದಿ ದೀಪಗಳನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. **ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್–ಬಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 69,86,866/–. **ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 1,39,737/–. **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ):** 90 ದಿನಗಳು (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ) **ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಸೆಸ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಫೀ:** ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್ ಮೆಂಟ್ KW-3 ನಂತೆ.**ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ವರ್ಗ:** ದರ್ಜೆ–2 ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು

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ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದಿಂದ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ 080–22485867 ಮತ್ತು ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಕೃಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ. ರಾಯಚೂರು (ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ 08532–25501216)ನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ರಾಯಚೂರು.
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DIP/RCR/94/KSMC&A/93/2024-25

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ABSTRACT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through e-procurement portal only)

KPCL invites tenders from reputed companies/agencies through e-tendering portal for the following works: **1) KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT1650/CALL-2 Dated: 08.07.2024** to Providing and replacement of Bottom ash enclosure at Unit-8 AHP. **2) KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT1560/CALL-2 Dated: 05.07.2024** to Providing, Erection/reconditioning of double disc valve at Unit 5-8 AHP. **3) KPCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT1609/CALL-2 Dated: 06.07.2024** Maintenance of gardens inside the plant area for a period of Eleven months. **Class of contractor**: Class-III and above contractors registered in KPWD. Last date for receipt of tenders: For Sl. No. 1: **15.07.2024, 16.00 Hrs.** For Sl. No. 2: **13.07.2024, 16.00 Hrs.** For more details visit: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be had from the **Executive Engineer (AHP-2) Mobile: 94495 96551.** (For Sl. No. 1 & 2)/ **Executive Engineer (PCM-2), Mobile: 94495 96582** (For Sl. No. 3), KPCL, RTPS, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur Dist.

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Secular remedy

Muslim women's right to maintenance under secular laws is well established

In holding that a divorced Muslim woman is not barred from invoking the secular remedy of seeking maintenance under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), the Supreme Court of India has done well to clarify an important question concerning the impact of a 1986 law that appeared to restrict their relief to what is allowed in Muslim personal law alone. The enactment of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986, was a watershed moment that is seen as having undermined the country's secular ethos by seeking to nullify a Court judgment in the Shah Bano case (1985), which allowed a divorced Muslim woman to apply for maintenance from a magistrate under Section 125 of the CrPC. Subsequently, the 1986 law was upheld by a Constitution Bench in 2001 after coming close to declaring its provisions unconstitutional for discriminating against Muslim women. The Act was declared valid after the Bench read it down in such a way as not to foreclose the secular remedy for Muslim women. Several High Court judgments took different views on whether Muslim women should avail of Section 3 of the 1986 Act or Section 125 of CrPC. The latest verdict by a Bench of Justice B.V. Nagarathna and Justice Augustine George Masih settles this question by holding that the codification of a Muslim woman's rights in the 1986 Act – including the right to maintenance during the *Iddat* period, provision for a dignified life until she remarries, and return of *mehr* and dowry – was only in addition to and not in derogation of her right to seek maintenance like a woman of any other religion.

Justice Masih, in his main opinion, concludes that both the personal law provision and the secular remedy for seeking maintenance ought to exist in parallel in their distinct domains. While the CrPC may be invoked by a woman if she was unable to maintain herself, the 1986 Act makes it a Muslim husband's obligation to provide for his divorced wife and her children up to a certain point. Justice Nagarathna, in her concurring opinion, looks at the social purpose behind the provision for maintenance in the CrPC, namely that it aims to prevent vagrancy among women by compelling the husband to support his wife. The 1986 Act codified the right available to a divorced Muslim woman in personal law. This right is in addition to, and not at the cost of, the rights available in existing law. The verdict is a great example of the Court using harmonious interpretation to expand the scope of rights as well as to secularise access to remedies. In the process, the Court has also neutralised the perception that the right of Muslim women to seek maintenance under secular provisions stood extinguished since 1986.

Can of worms

The government must ensure greater transparency in NEET

Trust can be everything, in governance. The can of worms that split open with the publication of results of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET)-UG-2024 has elevated the entrance examination for medical (and dental) seats to a metaphor for distrust in the system, among the people. This year, dogged by accusations of paper leak, malpractices, and technical failures, besides the grant of grace marks to some students, NEET, which was conceived to homogenise selection on merit, has now morphed into a beast that is far removed from its original idea. The Supreme Court of India, on Thursday, rescheduled the NEET-UG hearing to July 18, to address complaints regarding irregularities and malpractices during the exam conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA). A CBI investigation into the charges is ongoing. Meanwhile, the Centre has leaned heavily on a report, a data analysis, submitted by IIT Madras, examining the results to see if malpractices have occurred. The report's executive summary claimed that there was no abnormality that was discovered in a centre and city-wise analysis that was done for two years. The analysis was carried out for the top 1.4 lakh ranks in the country. It further stated that there was no evidence of either mass malpractice or a localised set of candidates benefiting. The overall increase of marks among students, a charge that was laid out initially, is attributed to the 25% reduction in syllabus, and it confirms that this occurred across multiple cities. However, outrage among student applicants on social media continues.

While NEET is no stranger to controversy, with States opposing it, the charges that have been levelled against it this year have had the effect of invoking distrust against the test among a larger subsect of chary students across the country. The only way to move forward from here is to ensure that the issue is debated threadbare on public platforms and all doubt is removed, instead of trying to sweep the worms that have spilled out under the carpet. Loud denials of malpractice should be matched with the willingness to engage with those affected in a public forum and provide clarifications. Where errors have taken place, as is possible in an exercise of this scale, it behoves a proper acknowledgement and apology. When trust is violated, the reparation for it should sometimes be utter honesty. For the longer term, the government must introduce greater limpidity in the examination process, and make sure that the NTA and its line agencies remain committed to maintaining transparency. It might also be the opportunity to set right other issues raised about the conduct of the examination itself, including security checks on students.

Reading the tea leaves ahead of China's Third Plenum

M.K. Narayanan

a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

Commentators in the West have been stating for some time that it was time to move beyond the rosy vision of a post-Cold War world, as, according to them, Moscow and Beijing (and certain other states aligned with them) could no longer be expected to become responsible stakeholders within a rules-based international order. Against this backdrop, considerable attention is being devoted to the Third Plenum of China's 20th Party Congress for signs of a possible thaw. There is a lingering hope that the plenum, scheduled to be held from July 15-18, might signify a shift in policy and a change in direction, at least as far as China is concerned. Pessimism is, nevertheless, rife in the West that China would ever subscribe to the idea that the security of every country is intimately linked to the security of the other. Yet, China is well known to spring surprises.

Meantime, a belief exists in the West that China had 'peaked' economically following its disastrous 'Zero COVID' policy. Also, that China's economy is still in terminal decline. Hence, the plenum might well pave the way for a change in direction, unlikely though it might look as of now. There is, thus, considerable interest, all around, about the eventual outcome of the plenum.

Economic reforms, issues

The fact that the date of the Third Plenum has been advanced this time – it normally takes place in October or November of the year following the standard Five Year Party Congress interval – has spurred this speculation that China is contemplating sweeping reforms to ensure China's rapid progress in the period ahead. Third Plenums typically set the economic strategy for the next five to 10 years, and are generally viewed as the most crucial Plenum in the Central Committee's five-year cycle. Across the world, many still recall that it was at the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Congress in December 1978 that Deng Xiaoping unveiled a whole new range of economic reforms that set China on the path of economic resurgence.

That China has economic problems is not denied: an ageing population, shrinking workforce, high levels of debt, and an economy that is still facing problems, notwithstanding the measures that have been put in place. This has given rise to a great deal of pessimism within China itself about its future. Hopes are high that the Plenum will come out with certain new guidelines that would at least convey an impression to the people and the world outside that China's economy is in good shape.

It has been a long time since any meeting devoted almost entirely to economic reforms has been programmed by the leaders of China's Communist Party. Most outside experts, however, are uncertain whether the plenum would indeed provide China an opportunity to experiment with new ideas. Further, that the current leadership would do so. Understandably, China's 'Maximum Leader', Xi Jinping, is hardly in a position to repeat what Deng Xiaoping said at the plenum in 1978 (which was held after Mao's demise), that China had been 30% wrong, though 70% right. This would amount to an admission of failure on Mr. Xi's part, which could impact his future.

There is some hope that the plenum might point to a change in direction for China

The view about China's 'intentions'

The West's drumbeat of allegations against China is, meanwhile, set to continue. Notwithstanding the outcome of the plenum deliberations, they will convince themselves that China's 'gray zone coercion' tactics are likely to continue. Activities such as 'disinformation' campaigns, interference in elections in democracies, military provocations in the seas around China, within and outside the First and Second Island Chains, the threat to Taiwan and countries in the South and East China Seas will, they claim, remain. Taiwan would also continue to remain the centrepiece of China's military and propaganda offensive.

Countries in Asia in particular, may, therefore, need to contend specifically with the threat posed by a mix of Chinese values, cultural expansionism, and national security paranoia. China's Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative (GSI) and Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) well encompass many of China's beliefs, leaving little scope for any adjustment. Having elevated the issue of national security to the highest level, Mr. Xi in turn sees danger everywhere. And this increases the paranoia about China's intentions in Asia, as also elsewhere.

China's approach is, thus, likely to add a great deal of 'flux' to an already difficult regional and global situation. It could also pose a dilemma for India's policymakers. For many years now, and more so since 2020, India's relations with China have remained under deep strain. This is not solely due to the tense situation prevailing on the China-India border, but has been the catalyst. As far as the border is concerned, the Chinese still demonstrate little 'give', despite India indicating a willingness to show more flexibility.

The result of all this is that both China and India appear to be hardening their attitudes. Already, reams are being written in India about the size of Beijing's growing missile and nuclear inventory. China's approach to the deployment of dual capability missiles is being adversely commented upon. Members from India's strategic community also continue to draw attention to the danger posed by China's Rocket Force (which oversees its nuclear and conventional missiles), and about the advances made by China in space and electronic warfare. The broad hint is that India should prepare for the worst, and take adequate steps in the event of a confrontation.

The issue, therefore, is whether a confrontation is inevitable, or whether an attempt could be made to deflect China's 'evil intentions' through diplomacy and other means. This has no relationship to the relative difference in China's and India's force structure, and is intended, at best, to avoid any misadventure through wrong signalling. There is no hint forthcoming, that China would respond positively to such overtures, given China's hard line stance and its aggressive mien. This is, however, as good a time as any for any experimentation, given that the economic and the strategic consequences of a conflict would be grim for both countries.

Where India stands

Today, India is far better positioned than China to take such an initiative. It is on the cusp of becoming a 'major' from a 'middle level' power. Its economic parameters are among the best in the world at present. It has a strong and focused leadership and has friends across the spectrum in all corners of the world. An initiative on India's part at this time would not be seen as a sign of weakness; it would be tantamount to a major initiative in favour of world peace. In the long history of China-India rivalry and conflict, from the early 1960s till date, there have been many periods when India has taken the initiative, and on occasions with spectacular outcomes. In the realm of diplomacy, place names such as Sumdorong Chu and Wangdung still reverberate. In terms of grand initiatives, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's path-breaking visit to China in 1988 and his discussions with Deng Xiaoping at the time, ensured almost three decades of peace for India and the world.

The situation today is again less tense than during many periods in the past. 'Peace is not at hand', but India today holds a stronger card, *vis-à-vis* China, than at any time in modern history. Mr. Xi invoking a relevance to the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence (Panchsheel by India) in Beijing (to mark the 70th anniversary of the Panchsheel) could well provide the opportunity for India to embark on a grand new initiative. It is India's choice to do this or not. What is certain is that to have a successful result would be highly beneficial for India and China, Asia and the world.

Breaking the taboo around men's reproductive health

Dr. Priyanka Parte

Scientist F, Indian Council of Medical Research, National Institute for Research in Reproductive and Child Health (ICMR-NIRRCH)

World Population Day (July 11) has passed. As we grapple with the multifaceted challenges of global population dynamics, it is crucial to turn the spotlight on a subject often overshadowed in discussions on reproductive health: male infertility. Male infertility remains a stigmatised issue, shrouded in silence and with misconceptions. This neglect exacerbates the emotional and psychological toll on those who are affected and impedes progress towards effective solutions.

In 2004, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that globally, between 60 million to 80 million couples struggle with infertility. However, the exact prevalence of infertility in India remains unspecified according to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) National Guidelines for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) Clinics (2005). Extrapolating from WHO's data, it is suggested that approximately 13 million to 19 million Indian couples may face infertility issues. This incidence is only set to increase, shaped by factors such as environmental pollution and adverse lifestyle shifts. Male infertility accounts for 50% of all infertility cases in the country. Thus, it is important to shed light on male infertility, understand its causes, and identify solutions to aid the millions of affected couples.

Understanding the subject

Male infertility is not a standard experience. Its causes, and therefore its forms, vary. Infertility in men can manifest as an absence of sperm, low sperm count, low sperm motility, or both. The form of infertility can depend on various factors that include stress, hormonal imbalance, genetic, anatomical and epigenetic factors, or even exposure to certain infections. External factors such as environmental pollution and an indiscriminate use of pesticides on crops, plastics, and plasticisers can also affect fertility and influence the epigenetic makeup. Lifestyle factors such as diets, sleep patterns, work schedules, and consumption of alcohol and tobacco also play a major role. Adding to these factors is a growing preference for late marriages among youth, creating challenges due to declining sperm quality with age.

It is time to recognise and address the subject of male reproductive health issues in India

While the challenges listed above may appear daunting, male reproductive health can be safeguarded through various lifestyle interventions. First and foremost, it is imperative to be aware of reproductive and sexual health and the factors that influence it, particularly during the formative period from secondary school to junior college. Here, parents, particularly fathers, play a critical role and must educate their sons on the issue. At an individual level, young men should proactively adopt good lifestyle practices, ensuring healthy eating, regular sleep patterns, and eliminating the consumption of alcohol, tobacco, and other intoxicants. While mobile phones and laptops have become occupational hazards in most fields, their excessive usage, in proximity to the body, should be avoided. Stress is a major deterrent to reproductive health, and regular exercise, yoga, and meditation can go a long way in reducing its adverse effects on well-being. Couples together must also adopt such healthy lifestyle practices to safeguard their reproductive health and enhance their well-being.

Treatment options

While lifestyle interventions play a critical preventative role, it is also important to discuss treatments available for those grappling with infertility. Treatment options are varied, and their efficacy depends on the cause and the form of infertility. It is important to seek help from a medical professional to identify and treat the issue. The medical professional will guide the person to undergo a routine semen analysis, conducted after a two to seven day period of sexual abstinence (WHO recommended). If the issue is physical or anatomical such as blocked sperm flow, undescended testicles, or an abnormal urethral opening, these can be fixed with surgery. If the issue is an absence of sperm, then treatments such as intra cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) should be undertaken. Alternatively, couples facing this issue can also opt for donor sperm insemination or adoption. In cases where the sperm count is very low, there is a chance for the couple to conceive naturally if sperm motility is very good. However, if both sperm count and motility are low, intrauterine insemination (IUI), in vitro fertilisation (IVF), or ICSI are advocated. In cases of male infertility due to gene mutation/s, genetic counselling is of utmost importance before seeking the support of assisted reproductive technologies such as IVF and ICSI.

With millions of couples in India facing infertility issues, there is an urgent need for open and informed discussions on reproductive health. It is time to recognise and address the significant issue of male reproductive health. Awareness building, sex education, and timely medical interventions are key to supporting couples on their journey to parenthood. By breaking the taboo surrounding male infertility and fostering a more informed and supportive environment, we can help many couples realise their dream of having children.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Court on maintenance

The Supreme Court of India's verdict (Page 1, "Divorced Muslim women entitled to secular remedy: SC", July 11) will truly empower them financially and socially. This is yet another landmark judgment by the apex Court after *Mary Roy vs The State Of Kerala* (1986) that gave equal rights to Syrian Christian women as their male siblings in matters of inheritance.

N.A. Joseph,
Ettumanoor, Kottayam, Kerala

The Court ruling is not only the need of the times but would also go a long way in empowering divorced Muslim women. It will protect their individuality and enhance their self-respect.

C.G. Kuriakose,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

Judge on the homemaker

Justice B.V. Nagarathna of the Supreme Court of India has hit the mark in her comments on a lack of emotional and financial security that many Indian women homemakers face (Inside pages, July 11). Financial empowerment is only the second stage in the journey towards financial independence. The first step is financial awareness. In most Indian homes, all financial decisions are taken by the man without even consulting his wife, even in those cases where the wife contributes to the household income. Every Indian woman should be aware of the state of the household balance sheet. This alone will enable her to help make the right monetary decisions. It will also relieve some of the burden on the husband who is expected to know everything about finance.

Sharada Sivaram,
Ernakulam, Kerala

As patriarchy is deeply entrenched in our society, men cannot be expected to heed the advice of Justice Nagarathna and do "justice" by sharing their income with their wives.

The passing of a law that makes working men to share a percentage of their income, say 10%, with their wives to meet their personal needs, over and above the amount being given towards household expenses, may be the solution. Such a law would definitely help in increasing awareness about the necessity for the financial independence of homemaker housewives and, eventually, a change in the mindset of men.

Kosaraju Chandramouli,
Hyderabad

Corrections & Clarifications

In a report, "Ahead of Congress leader's visit, firing reported in Jiribam" (Inside pages, July 9, 2024), a sentence in the third paragraph read, "The houses were occupied, the police said." It should have been "Neither of the houses were occupied, the police said."

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

U.S. presidential race

U.S. President Joe Biden should end his reelection bid. This would not only be in the interests of the United States and the Democrats but also in his own best interest ('World' page, July 11). By doing so, he would escape defeat at the hands of Donald Trump and also preserve the legacy of his long and illustrious career. Such a step would also provide the Democrats with an option to field an energetic and fresh face who can take on Mr. Trump.

Rajdeep Mahanta,
Guwahati, Assam

Should States get special packages outside Finance Commission allocations?

Arun Kumar
former professor of economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Pinaki Chakraborty
fellow at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy

PARLEY

In the run-up to the Union Budget, Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu, the Chief Ministers of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, respectively, who are in a position to decide the political fate of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the Centre, have demanded special financial packages for their respective States. These packages could potentially increase the fiscal burden on the Centre and also on other States. Should States get special packages outside Finance Commission allocations? Arun Kumar and Pinaki Chakraborty discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Prashanth Perumal J.** Edited excerpts:

What is the basis on which the Finance Commission determines how much money is allocated to different States? Do you think there is a case for States such as Bihar and Andhra Pradesh to receive funds beyond what is being allocated to them through the Finance Commission?

Arun Kumar: The last Finance Commission had said that States should be given 41% of the divisible tax pool. Within that 41%, what does each State get? For that, there is a formula which is based on income, population, the area, forests and ecology, demographic performance, etc. If we look at the 15th Finance Commission, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in 2020-21 got the largest amount of funds and Karnataka and Kerala saw the largest decrease in the share of funds. So, in other words, the criteria that the Finance Commission use can change the amount of funds going to different States.

Apart from the Finance Commission devolution, which is statutory, how the remaining amount is spent is determined by the Centre, and that is where political determination comes in; States which are closer to the Centre get more funds. Andhra Pradesh and Bihar are part of the NDA and their support is critical to the government. So, I suppose they will be able to draw more funds.

Pinaki Chakraborty: As far as transfers by the Finance Commission are concerned, the scope for discretion is very limited. Other Central transfers are also determined by certain principles of distribution across States. We can debate those schemes, their designs, etc., but those are certainly not arbitrary. So, that is the overall framework of transfer.

When there is a specific demand by a specific State for higher transfer of resources for a specific purpose, constitutionally there is no bar on giving more money to that State. But generally, it is not done on a large scale because if that becomes the order of the day, fiscal prudence becomes a casualty. So, the possibility of large-scale discretionary transfers is limited.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and his Ministers meet Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi. ANI

Andhra Pradesh had a major fiscal shock after bifurcation and that was partly offset when the Finance Commission provided revenue deficit grants. Why Andhra Pradesh still requires Central support requires a careful analysis. But Bihar's case is different. Bihar's per capita development spending is less than 60% of the all-States average. So, Bihar has a serious fiscal capacity problem. This has not been fully offset by Finance Commission transfers or additional Central transfers.

What is the relationship between additional Central aid and the economic performance of States? Does the allocation of more funds to a certain State boost its long-term economic performance?

AK: There are several factors. The public and private sector together determine the development of a State. But with all other things remaining the same, higher allocations from the Centre to a State would boost the growth of that State. The major problem is the issue of governance – how well is the State governed and how well are the resources that are received by the State spent on development. Poorer States tend to have a greater amount of leakage of funds. But more importantly, the credit-deposit ratio of Bihar is much lower than the all-India average. This means that a large part of Bihar's savings is leaking out of the State to other States. So, even if you allocate more funds from the Centre, the leakage may be greater than the additional resources they get.

PC: If we look at revenue sharing, the part which is not within the purview of the Finance Commission has increased and that is also why we see an increase in centrally sponsored schemes. So, there is a larger political economy question which needs to be discussed. When we talk about resource flow to the richer regions of the country, it is much, much higher than the resource flow to the poorer regions of the country. This cannot be explained by governance differences alone. If there is a problem of resources, where a State is spending only 50% of the all-States average as public expenditure, this can't just be explained by differences in governance and quality of expenditure. We need to channelise more resources for higher capital investment in the poorer regions of the country for balanced regional development.

> When there is a specific demand by a specific State for higher transfer of resources for a specific purpose, constitutionally there is no bar on giving more money to that State. But generally, it is not done on a large scale because if that becomes the order of the day, fiscal prudence becomes a casualty.
> PINAKI CHAKRABORTY

By taking away from States the power to tax their citizens, has GST (Goods and Services Tax) exacerbated competition among States to get more funds from the Centre? We also see that there is no longer tax competition between the States after the centralisation of taxation under GST. Is that good or bad?

PC: Because of this race to the bottom among States after liberalisation, States themselves decided to introduce a floor rate for sales tax in 2000-01. GST has resulted in significant loss of fiscal autonomy for the States because the States used to get two-thirds of their revenue from VAT (Value Added Tax). States also cannot set the tax rate, which is a key component of fiscal autonomy. So, there needs to be some flexibility somewhere within the GST structure so that the States don't feel that they are not able to tax to provide public services. We should discuss what kind of GST flexibility can bring an element of fiscal autonomy without compromising on the fiscal harmonisation across States.

AK: GST has damaged federalism because States are very diverse. The problems of Assam are not the same as those of Gujarat. The States have different sources of revenue and expenditure requirements. What we require in India, a very diverse country, is greater decentralisation and it is the only answer to the problems we face. Across the country, greater centralisation that has come in with GST is perhaps not good. What has happened with GST is that it has benefited the organised sector at the expense of the unorganised sector. Even though the unorganised sector has been kept out of GST, the organised sector is the one that has been rising and that is why you see that GST collections have been rising post-pandemic. This decline in the unorganised sector, which is concentrated in the backward States, means that backward States will under-perform. So, GST needs reform. I recommend that the tax be collected at the last point instead of at each intermediate stage, which creates a lot of complications. There is a lot of corruption associated with input credit, there are fake companies, etc. Trucks are stopped by the police and implementing agencies and money is extorted. So, the black economy continues to flourish. We need to collect a lot more from direct taxes and reduce collections from indirect taxes, which are having a negative effect on the backward States as compared to the advanced ones.

We see that States with political weight usually get more funds from the Centre at the cost of other States. So, how fair and objective is Central aid to states? Is there any way to stop politics from influencing how Central funds are allocated to the States?

AK: Seventy per cent of the funds that the Centre spends is non-discretionary. But the remaining 30% are discretionary. The allocation of funds by the Centre to the States depends on politics or political considerations. Greater decentralisation and greater autonomy to the States is the only way to change that.

PC: The real problem of discretion is that if the Centre decides to introduce a new scheme and says that 60% of it will be funded by the Centre and 40% will be funded by the States, it is actually tying up State resources. So, we need deliberations at the national level involving all the stakeholders to understand which schemes the Centre should intervene in, and which it should leave to the States. The 14th Finance Commission had given an important framework for this, recommending that the Centre should intervene in schemes where there are large externalities or national priorities involved. But if the Centre wants to run a primary health centre in a remote village, that is not going to help. So, I think this discussion about political alignment is only of marginal importance. What is really discretionary is the Centre's complete autonomy in deciding which sector and where to spend.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

The trauma of covering tragedies

Reporters lurch from one unfortunate event to the next with little time to process the incident or mourn the dead

Ishita Mishra

On the evening of July 2, social media was flooded with visuals of bodies of women lying scattered on the ground in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh. Many of these women, who wore long veils, did not have dignity in death.

It emerged that they had attended a religious gathering of a 'godman'. When the event got over, the followers rushed out and a stampede took place. By late evening, it was clear that this was perhaps the worst stampede in recent times in India. Bodies of women and children were piling up in mortuaries. As the small town of Hathras was not equipped to deal with a tragedy of this scale, many bodies were transported to places such as Agra, Etah, and Aligarh. The death toll was 121.

Within hours of the tragedy, my colleagues and I took a cab to the site. As I walked around, meeting one distraught family after another, I met a man who had lost all the women in his family – mother, wife, and daughter – in the stampede. He uncovered the face of his 10-year-old daughter for us. The sight shook me. Her small body had a Y-shaped incision, her ponytail was soaked in blood, and her eyes had scars. That image of a young life cut short so brutally will perhaps stay with me for a long time. As reporters, we are expected to be stoic in such instances. Stoicism over a long period of time can make people numb. Perhaps, that is our coping mechanism.

The wails of men, women, and children were disturbing, but I had to watch it all unfold to report on the tragedy with nuance and sensitivity. In such times, reporters cannot afford to feel ashamed of asking questions to grieving families. The news of the tragedy must be told with empathy, while holding those responsible accountable, even if the world moves on to another tragedy the next day.

On the streets near hospitals, people stood in long queues, searching for their loved ones who had gone missing. I had two jobs at the time: to note the details of the missing people and to help the kin reach the various hospitals and mortuaries where the injured and dead had been kept, respectively. This too was traumatic: every family member trembled when asked to lift a shroud. The relatives naturally looked exhausted. One woman, who had been searching for her 15-year-old granddaughter, said she had not eaten anything though someone at the site had offered her food. She looked tired and weak.

It was humbling to speak to the villagers who had gathered at the spot. They helped the media by sharing minute details of the tragedy. They betrayed no fear of any consequence, given that the police and the administration were as responsible for the incident as the organisers. It was also troubling to see how prominent people were visiting the accident site and hospitals only to take photos.

However, journalists cannot be entirely focused on the trauma alone; we need to equally cover the police investigation. We moved on to report on the arrests being made and the amount of compensation being given to victims' families. That is always the hardest part: to leave the grieving families who had cooperated with us while we did our job.

While it is a struggle to report on disasters and tragedies, the stories of survivors keep us going. Where there is despair, there is always a ray of hope. One such story was of Pappu Singh from Bharatpur, Rajasthan. His mother and paternal aunt had been missing from the stampede site. The same night I met him, he called me just to share the good news that the two of them had reached home safely. There was so much relief in his voice.

The hardest part on reporting on tragedies is that we lurch from one to the next with little time to process the incident or mourn the dead. As reporters, our primary job is to tell stories and chase deadlines. There is little time to reflect or heal.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Keeping your head above water

A wild elephant in the flooded waters of Hajo in Kamrup district of Assam. Two waves of floods in the State left 84 people dead and displaced more than 24 lakh people while Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve recorded the highest level of flood since 2014, claiming 174 animals so far. PTI

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 12, 1974

BHEL to make oil rigs with U.S. collaboration

New Delhi, July 11: Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. will be signing in a fortnight, a technical collaboration agreement with Oil Well Ltd. of USA for the manufacture of oil drilling rigs needed for off-shore exploration. The Union Minister of Heavy Industry, Mr. T.A. Mal, told the consultative committee of MPs here to-day that BHEL would be the co-ordinating agency, using the capacity available in the public and the private sector engineering units to make sub-assemblies and components. BHEL would supply a large number of electrical items, including power packs. An assembly plant for the rigs would be set up under a crash programme. Mr. Pal said there was a big demand for the rigs and they were not available, and where available were expensive.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 12, 1924

Railway risk notes

Simla, July 11: The Gazette of India contains the Railway Risk Note forms A.B.D.G. and H. as amended by the Government of India in pursuance of the recommendations made by the Railway Risk Note Committee. These forms will come into use with effect from 1st October 1924. The Government of India have passed orders on the report of the Risk Note Revision Committee and have gazetted new forms A.B.D.G. and H. which come into force from 1st October.

From Page One

NEET counselling from July third week: govt.

The government explained that the allocation of seats would depend on the timing of the cancellation of seats if certain candidates were found to be beneficiaries of malpractices. Candidates are usually allowed to change seats in the first and second rounds of counselling as per the options exercised by them. Cancellation would not have any impact on the overall counselling process and allocation of seats if done before the third round, which is expected to start in the second week of September.

If candidature is cancelled after the third round, the vacant seats could still be offered in the subsequent round. Candidates who have already been allocated seats in the earlier rounds would not be able to participate in the subsequent round, the government said.

In case the candidature of any candidate is cancelled after the conclusion of four rounds, the vacated seats could be put up for additional rounds of counselling, the Centre submitted.

During conflict, there is no such thing as strategic autonomy: U.S. Ambassador

As Washington raises concerns over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Moscow, Eric Garcetti says India and the U.S. must 'act together' in 'times of need' as trusted partners; both countries should also be open to criticising each other, especially on issues of human rights, says the Ambassador

Suhasini Haidar
Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

There is no such thing as "strategic autonomy" during a conflict, U.S. Ambassador Eric Garcetti said on Thursday, even as sources said that U.S. officials have raised concerns with Indian officials over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia this week.

The comments, including a series of statements critical of the visit by the U.S. State Department, are the sharpest sign of tensions between the U.S. and India over the Putin-Modi summit, including the timing of the talks that came as Western leaders met in Washington for a conference of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), and a series of deadly Russian missile strikes across Ukraine.

"I respect that India likes its strategic autonomy. But in times of conflict there is no such thing as strategic autonomy, we will, in crisis moments, need to know each other," Mr. Garcetti said, addressing a conference in Delhi, stressing the need for India and the U.S. to "act together" in "times of need" as trusted partners.

The U.S. Ambassador was addressing a conclave on India-U.S. defence and security partnership, organised by CUTS International and U.S. Consulate-General, Kolkata.

"No war is distant any more and we must not just stand for peace. We must take concrete actions to make sure those who don't play by peaceful rules, that their war machines cannot continue unabated," Mr. Garcetti continued, without specifically naming Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 or China's transgressions at the Line of Actual Control in 2020, but referring to countries that have "ignored sovereign borders" in the past three years.

U.S. Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti was addressing a conclave on India-U.S. defence and security partnership in Delhi. FILE PHOTO

In statements on Ukraine, the U.S. State Department regularly refers to the "Russian war machine".

India has consistently held that its ties with Russia are part of its independent bilateral relations and strategic autonomy, and has thus far not directly criticised Russia at the United Nations for the war in Ukraine.

Meanwhile, sources confirmed to *The Hindu* that U.S. officials have raised concerns directly over India's ties with Russia, including the surprise visit by Mr. Modi to Moscow this week, which had not been announced until recently.

According to the sources, India's Acting Ambassador in Washington, Sripriya Ranganathan, was "asked" to explain the reason for the visit and its timing by the U.S. State Department officials. U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell had also spoken to Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra about the issue.

External Affairs Ministry officials did not deny the conversations, but an official downplayed their significance, saying that Indian diplomats are in "constant touch with the State Department and the White House".

On Wednesday, U.S. State Department spokesperson Mathew Miller had confirmed that conversations had been held, without revealing the identity of the officials.

"We have been quite clear about our concerns about India's relationship with Russia. We have expressed those privately, directly to the Indian government and continue to do so, and that hasn't changed," Mr. Miller said, in response to a question. "We have had conversations with them in the past 24 hours, and I think I'll keep the contents of those private," he added, when pressed for more details.

The External Affairs Ministry declined to comment on the latest remarks by the U.S. or on the U.S. statements of "concern" to Indian officials. On Tuesday, Mr. Kwatra had responded to questions about criticism from the U.S. and from Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy by repeating Mr. Modi's statement to Mr. Putin that there was "no solution on the battlefield" to the Ukraine conflict.

In other comments likely to raise eyebrows in South Block, Mr. Garcetti said India and the U.S. should be open to criticising each other, especially on issues of human rights and NGOs.

Two members of Meitei outfit held in Imphal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Manipur Police arrested two members of the radical armed Meitei outfit Arambai Tenggol in the Paona Bazaar area in Imphal on Wednesday. The police also seized arms and ammunition, including an INSAS rifle with 16 live rounds and a pistol with three live rounds.

The accused have been identified as Kangabam Lenin Singh, 43, and Toijam Shantikishor, 50. The Manipur Police said a case had been registered "for further investigation and legal action".

The arrest comes within days of fresh tensions erupting in parts of Kangpokpi and in Jiribam district, which has seen violence and arson since June. The Arambai Tenggol group has come into prominence as one of the largest armed actors in the ongoing ethnic conflict.

In the first weeks after the conflict broke out in the State, multiple India Reserve Battalion camps across the valley area reported having their armouries "looted" of over 5,000 weapons, including INSAS rifles. Over 4,000 weapons are yet to be recovered.

In the course of the conflict, it came to be believed that these weapons had armed large parts of the civilian population, including members of Arambai Tenggol. The arrest came a day after the Manipur Police and the Central Reserve Police Force arrested three individuals they identified as "armed cadres of an underground outfit" in Kangpokpi district. The police were acting on inputs from the National Investigation Agency and handed the accused over to the agency after making the arrest. This triggered massive protests in Kangpokpi district, with Kuki-Zo groups seeking their unconditional release on the grounds that they were village volunteers.

ANOTHER REPORT
» PAGE 14

No intrusion recorded on cameras on Jammu-Pak. border: BSF official

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Amid a fresh wave of terror attacks in the Jammu division, a security audit by the Border Security Force (BSF) has not found any breach along the Jammu-Pakistan border, a senior BSF official said.

The BSF checked the footage of underwater and surface surveillance cameras installed along the 192-km International Border in Jammu but no suspicious movement has been recorded in the past few days, the official told *The Hindu*.

This year, at least five terror attacks have been reported in Jammu, in which eight security personnel have been killed.

Security forces are investigating if highly trained terrorists had infiltrated from the International Border as four attacks since June 9 have been reported in areas such as Kathua, close to the Jammu border.

On July 8, five Army personnel were killed when terrorists opened fire at two Army vehicles from two directions at Jenda Nallah in Badnota village, around 124 km from Kathua town.

Use of tunnels

The official said the possibility of terrorists using tunnels was also being looked into.

Till 2022, the BSF had detected at least five tunnels along the Jammu border.

"As part of comprehensive border security, we have placed underwater cameras and sensors in the riverine patches. Live electric wires have also been laid down. If an infiltrator tries to cross the border, these devices can send an alarm. This is in addition to BSF personnel who are also stationed there. We checked the footage but none of the sensors or cameras recorded anything amiss," the official said.

The International Border is secured by the BSF, while the 740-km Line of Control, the effective border in the Kashmir Valley and parts of Jammu, is under the operational control of the Army.

The meeting's top agenda was to plug the holes in the security apparatus, especially along the International Border. ANI

J&K, Punjab officials meet to tackle rise in militancy in Jammu

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

In the wake of rising militancy in Jammu, which borders both Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, top security officials from Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab held an inter-State meeting in Kathua on Thursday. At the same time, over 50 local residents have been rounded up to track down militants and their supporters in Kathua district in connection with the July 8 attack that left five soldiers dead.

Official sources said the meeting's top agenda was to plug the holes in the security apparatus, especially along the International Border in J&K and Punjab. The officials discussed cross-border infiltration and new routes being identified by militants to fan out into the Jammu region's two major valleys – the Pir Panjal Valley (comprising Rajouri and Poonch districts) and the Chenab Valley (comprising Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar).

Of Jammu's 10 districts, nine – Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi, Udhampur, Kathua, Doda, Kishtwar, Jammu, and Ramban – have seen a rise in militancy, especially after the Union government revoked J&K's special constitutional status in 2019.

Deadly attacks

After major attacks on the Army in Poonch and Rajouri from 2020, the militants have fanned out into the previously peaceful areas of Udhampur, Reasi, Doda, and Kathua. All these districts had been declared free of militancy by 2005.

Since April, however, six security personnel have been killed in the Jammu region, including the five soldiers killed in the July 8 attack in Kathua. Five militants were also killed in anti-militancy operations in the region. Kathua comes under the Western Command.

The inter-State meeting was attended by J&K Director-General of Police (DGP) R.R. Swain, Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav, and the Special Director-General of BSF, Western Command, Y.B. Khurania. An official said that J&K Additional DGP (Law and Order) Vijay Kumar and Punjab ADG, Law and Order, Arpit Shukla also attended the meeting, along with BSF officers of Inspector General-rank from Punjab and Jammu.

Nazir Ronga, J&K Bar's ad hoc chief, arrested

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The ad hoc chairman of the J&K High Court Bar Association (JKHCBA), Kashmir, Nazir Ahmad Ronga, was arrested by the Lieutenant-Governor's administration in Srinagar, just hours after the Bar issued a notification related to the internal election.

Lawyer Umair Ronga, son of Mr. Ahmad, said the J&K police arrived at their home at 1.10 a.m. "without any arrest warrant" and claimed "*Uper se order hai* (It's an order from the top)".

The 3,000-strong Bar on July 10 sought nominations from lawyers to fill different posts through an internal election. In a fresh notification on Thursday, a Bar spokesman said, "On turn of events the JKHCBA has decided to suspend notification [issued on July 10]."

The J&K administration disallowed elections in the Bar in the past five years. It recently invoked Section 144 and barred any elections. The latest crackdown comes in spite of the recent amendment made to the Bar's erstwhile constitution dropping a paragraph that stated the Bar "will work towards a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute".

Controversial probationary IAS officer joins duty

Shoumojit Banerjee
PUNE

Controversial probationary Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Pooja Khedkar, who is in the eye of a raging storm allegedly for seeking special privileges and faking certificates, joined the Washim district administration on Thursday to complete the remainder of her training amid clamour from activists demanding an in-depth probe into the circumstances of her recruitment.

The Centre constituted a single-member committee, chaired by a senior officer of the rank of Additional Secretary, to verify the candidature claims and other details of Ms. Khedkar. The committee will submit its report within two weeks.

A 2023-batch IAS officer, Ms. Khedkar, who was posted as Additional Collector in Pune, had allegedly sought special privileges including a separate office, a house, a car, and staff (including a constable) before taking charge as an assistant collector – perks not given to trainee officers – amid allegations that her father, a retired IAS officer, used his influence to get his daughter's demands fulfilled. She even used a 'Government of Maharashtra' sticker and a red-blue beacon on her private luxury sedan, an Audi, while on probation in Pune. It later emerged that she allegedly faked mental illness to secure a disability certificate and appeared for the UPSC exam under the visually impaired category.

The litany of controversies led to a probe and a report being submitted by Pune District Collector Suhas Diwase to the General Administration Department (GAD), which saw Ms. Khedkar being transferred to Washim district to complete the remaining term of her training as a "supernumerary assistant collector" till July 30, 2025.

Speaking to reporters in Washim before joining the administration, Ms. Khedkar refused to comment on her controversies, merely saying, "I am very happy to join in Washim district [administration]. I am looking forward to working here... I am not authorised to comment on this issue as government rules do not to speak anything on this matter."

Washim District Collector Buveneswari S. said that Ms. Khedkar had been allotted the district as a probationary officer.

(With inputs from Vijaita Singh)

India hosts BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers amid raging Myanmar crisis

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The seven-member Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) should find solutions to the regional challenges within itself, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Thursday, addressing the first BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' retreat held here.

The meeting assumes significance as it is being held against the backdrop of major developments in Myanmar, where the military junta has been receiving battlefield setbacks against dozens of ethnic armed organisations.

"Global and regional developments also make it imperative that we find more solutions among ourselves. There are long-standing goals such as capacity-building and economic cooperation that have acquired a new urgency. And not least, a grouping that is so complementary and so congenial in its membership should surely harbour higher aspirations," Mr. Jaishankar said.

This is the first time such an event was organised since the Charter of BIMSTEC came into effect on May 20, which marked a landmark development in the evolution of the organisation.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with the Foreign Ministers of other countries, in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

The developments in Myanmar pose a major issue before the BIMSTEC as instability there has put a question mark on a number of developmental and connectivity projects that were aimed at firming up ties among countries like Nepal, Bhutan, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Thailand.

A day before the beginning of the meeting in Delhi, the military junta in Naypyidaw lost control of Naungcho, a major town along a trade highway to China in the northern Shan State, to the Ta'ang National Liberation Army.

Following his meeting with Myanmar Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister U. Than Swe, Mr. Jaishankar said, "Our discussions focused on the connectivity projects, so crucial for the future of BIMSTEC. Also exchanged views on border stability and humanitarian assistance."

The External Affairs Ministry is yet to clarify if India will extend humanitarian assistance to the affected civilian population inside Myanmar. Till now, assistance has been limited to the displaced population and personnel of the Myanmar military who sought refuge in Mizoram.

The Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh (Hasan Mahmood), Thailand (Maris Sangiampongsa), Myanmar, and Bhutan (D.N. Dhungyel) participated. The Nepalese and Sri Lankan Foreign Ministers skipped the meeting.

APPEAL

Master LAKAVATH MAHESHWAR, son of Lakavath Rajendhar, 14 years admitted in Christian Medical College, Ranipet is suffering from HB S Beta Thalassemia. This is a type of life-threatening blood disorder. The best option for him would be to undergo Allogeneic Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Transplant (PBSCT). The estimated cost of PBSCT at this hospital is approximately Rs. 15,00,000/-

Please send donation however small and save the boy. Cheque/ D.D./M.O. favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Lakavath Maheshwar, **Our Account details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India, R.A.Puram, and IFSC Code: SBIN0001855. You can donate through Google Pay No. 9884607377, UPI ID: savepoorlives@oksbi. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. Act.

Save Poor Lives Registered Public Charitable Trust, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No.76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600028. Contact No. 044 42044165 & 044 35691848. Mobile: 9884607377. Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com Our website: www.savepoorlives.com

Will raise Manipur issue with full force in Parliament: Rahul

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

He reiterated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should visit Manipur and appeal for peace

The Congress and the INDIA bloc will raise the need for peace in Manipur with full force in Parliament to put pressure on the government to end this tragedy, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said on Thursday, days after his visit to the violence-hit State.

He also reiterated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should visit Manipur and appeal for peace.

Mr. Gandhi made the remarks in a post in Hindi on X (formerly Twitter) as he shared a video of his interactions with the people of Manipur during his day-long visit to the State on Monday.

'No improvement'

"I have visited Manipur three times since violence broke out there, but unfortunately there is no improvement in the situation – even today the State is divided into two parts. Houses are burning, innocent lives are in danger and thousands of families are forced to live in relief camps," the former Congress chief said.

The Prime Minister should personally visit Manipur, listen to the problems of the people of the State and appeal for peace, Mr. Gandhi said.

During his stay in Manipur, Mr. Gandhi had visited three relief camps in different districts of the BJP-ruled State and interacted with people belonging to both the warring ethnic groups – Meiteis and Kukis – who were displaced by the violence.

In the video, Mr. Gandhi is seen interacting with people at various relief camps.

"I can help you, I can raise the issue and put pressure but I can't reassure you when you will be able to go to your homes because the government has the answer to this. You will see in the next session, I will raise your voice," Mr. Gandhi is seen telling people at the camp.

Centre begins efforts to implement Labour Codes

Mandaviya starts meeting representatives of trade unions seeking their cooperation; passed by both Houses, the Codes are not yet operational following the objections raised by the unions

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

Almost a month after the swearing-in of a Narendra Modi government for the third term, the Union Labour Ministry has started efforts to implement the four Labour Codes, which were passed in Parliament in its second term in 2019 and 2020.

Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Union Labour Secretary Sumita Dawra have started meeting representatives of various trade unions seeking their cooperation to implement the controversial legislation.

Though passed in both Houses, the Codes are not yet operational owing to objections from trade unions. The Centre has been maintaining that some States are yet to frame the Rules for the Codes. Almost all the States have framed the Rules, and the Centre had said it is helping those States which could not draft the Rules to complete the process.

Strong opposition: Leaders of trade unions taking out a rally in Visakhapatnam opposing the Labour Codes. FILE PHOTO

The Central trade unions (CTUs) had opposed the implementation of the Codes citing that they will curtail trade union rights and social security measures for workers. Recently, the Citigroup had said in its employment analysis report on India that implementing the four Labour Codes could improve the "ease of doing business" scenario in the country.

Mr. Mandaviya met the representatives of Sangh Parivar-backed trade union Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) earlier this week, while Ms. Dawra met a delegation of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) on Wednesday. The leaders of both the trade unions told *The Hindu* that the Minister and the Secretary were keen to implement the four Labour Codes and sought their help.

BMS general secretary Ravindra Himte said in a release that it had demanded early implementation of the Code on Wages and the Code on Social Security. He, however, said the Industrial Relations Code and Occupational Safety and Health Code contain many anti-worker provisions which need to be changed.

Manali Shah, national secretary of SEWA, said the issue came up in the meeting and the Centre is keen to implement it. She, however, said SEWA is opposed to the four codes and the purpose of visit was mainly to raise the lack of social security measures for unorganised and migrant workers.

"The current social security legislation fails to adequately safeguard their rights as State policies and laws concerning social security offer no specific provisions for migrant workers. Both migrant workers crossing State borders and workers employed outside India face similar deprivation of protection under social security laws and schemes," a memorandum by SEWA said. Ten Central unions, including SEWA, had written to Mr. Mandaviya urging him to meet the trade unions on the issues of workers.

Ahead of MLC polls in Maharashtra, wary parties move MLAs to hotels

Ateeq Shaikh
MUMBAI

A day ahead of the Maharashtra Legislative Council (MLC) election to 11 seats, the fear of cross-voting forced the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) to check in their MLAs into star hotels on Thursday.

Given the seat matrix, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) is supposed to win only two MLC seats. But it has fielded three candidates. The BJP is wary of the MVA deploying the strategy of cross-voting the saffron party had used two years ago.

In 2022, Eknath Shinde had led a revolt during the Legislative Council election. Out of the 10 MLC seats, the MVA was expected to win six, but got one fewer. The BJP got five of its nominees elected to the Upper House as a group of Shiv Sena MLAs cross-voted. After the poll result, Mr. Shinde, with 10 MLAs, reached the BJP-ruled Gujarat and toppled the government headed by Mr. Thackeray.

This time, 12 candidates are in the fray for the 11 seats. The ruling Mahayuti alliance has fielded nine candidates and the MVA has three candidates contesting the biennial election. With five candidates, the BJP has the highest number of nominees, followed by two each from Ajit Pawar's NCP and Mr. Shinde's Sena. The Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) is supporting the Peasants and Workers' Party of India (PWPI) candidature of sitting MLC Jayant Patil, Mr. Thackeray's Sena has chosen his close aide Milind Narvekar and the Congress has renominated Pradnya Satav, wife of the late MP Rajeev Satav.

The Congress, with a strength of 37 MLAs, and the NCP (SP), with 12 MLAs, have so far not taken their MLAs to any 'safe haven'.

Uddhav Thackeray has said that all three MVA nominees will get elected. FILE PHOTO

As the MVA has fielded three candidates against its assured two wins, speculation is rife in the political circles that Mahayuti MLAs planning to switch to the Opposition alliance post the Lok Sabha election results may have been asked to prove their allegiance by cross-voting in favour of the MVA candidates.

On Thursday, Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA and former Minister Bhaskar Jadhav told presspersons that one BJP candidate is set to lose on Friday. Last week, Mr. Thackeray had expressed confidence in all three MVA nominees getting elected.

Of the 288 seats, the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly's existing strength is 274. These MLAs form the electoral college for the July 12 election. Each MLC candidate will require 23 votes to confirm a berth in the Upper House.

The three big allies of the MVA have 65 MLAs and require a minimum of 69 votes for all three of its nominees to win. If the PWPI and Communist Party of India (Marxist), with one MLA each, and the Samajwadi Party, with two MLAs, back the MVA, only then it will be able to sail through. Otherwise, it has to depend on cross-voting. The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, which has two MLAs, is not in the MVA.

SJM seeks 'robot tax' for AI-induced job loss

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

A 'robot tax' to cross-subsidise employees who lose jobs because of the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by their employers is a key item on the budget wishlist of the Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), which is affiliated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

In a pre-Budget meeting of economists with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last month, the SJM also suggested that tax incentives be given to industries generating more employment, based on an employment-output ratio.

Ashwani Mahajan, economist and national co-convener of the SJM, who attended the June 20 meeting, told *The Hindu* that economic measures were needed to cope with the human cost of AI. "We are not against the adoption of cutting-edge technology including AI, but it is a fact that in the short run, this will lead to loss of employment among certain sections of employees, and a 'robot tax', as it's being termed, can be used for creating a fund that would help these workers upskill and adapt to new technologies," he said.

On job creation

Apart from the 'robot tax', some concerns raised during the Lok Sabha poll campaign are also reflected in the SJM's wishlist. With unemployment being a major theme during the campaign, the SJM has suggested that industries be incentivised to create more jobs through tax measures.

With regard to food inflation, it proposed that small farmers be given subsidies for micro-irrigation projects that they can start on their lands to increase productivity.

On the issue of housing for all, the SJM suggested that a wealth tax be imposed on those holding "vacant land", in order to "discourage unnecessary land holding on the pretext of future requirements".

Justices Kotiswar Singh, R. Mahadevan proposed for elevation to top court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Thursday recommended Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Justice of the High Court for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, and Madras High Court Acting Chief Justice R. Mahadevan for appointment as apex court judges.

If the recommendation comes through, Justice Singh will be the first judge from Manipur, a State which has witnessed traumatic months of ethnic violence, to be elevated to the Supreme Court.

"Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh originally hails from Manipur... His (Justice Singh) appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court will provide representation to the North-East, and in particular he will be the first Judge from the State of Manipur to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court," the collegium said in its resolution on Thursday.

The Collegium said Justice Mahadevan was "eminently suitable" for appointment as a Supreme Court judge. He belongs to a backward community from Tamil Nadu, and will bring diversity to the Supreme Court Bench.

Other recommendations

It recommended Justice Tashi Rabstan be appointed Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court.

It recommended Justice K.R. Shriram, a senior judge of the Bombay High Court, for appointment as Madras High Court Chief Justice. Justice G.S. Sandhawalia, from the Punjab and Haryana High Court, was recommended for appointment as the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court. Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar was recommended for appointment as Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala.

The Collegium suggested Justice Rajiv Shakdher to be appointed as Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh. It recommend the transfer of the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, M.S. Ramachandra Rao, as Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court.

Justice Manmohan, the Acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, was recommended to be appointed as its Chief Justice.

SKM farmers to meet MPs with their 14 demands

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Farmers groups belonging to the Samyukt Kisan Morcha have renewed their struggle with a charter of 14 demands, including the immediate enactment of a law to guarantee minimum support prices (MSPs) for their produce.

The charter will be presented to the Centre and Opposition parties.

Farmers also plan to meet all MPs to ensure that their demands are raised in Parliament.

CENTRAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY
Established by an Act of Parliament
56-57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110058
Advt. No. 03/2024 Date:- 11.07.2024
INVITING ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR ONLINE INTERVIEW
Online applications are invited from eligible candidates for Online Interview for engagement of Guest Faculties in different campuses of Central Sanskrit University, Delhi in various subjects as per requirement for the academic session 2024-2025. For detailed notification regarding number of positions, submission of application, schedule, eligibility conditions, etc., please visit University website www.sanskrit.nic.in under recruitment tab.
REGISTRAR

Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Science, Lucknow
Aurawan, P.O. Banthra, Lucknow-226401 (U.P.)
Admissions-2024-25 OPEN
(Last Date for application-21.07.2024)
The UPSIFS, Lucknow (Established in 2021) functioning under the aegis of the Home Department, Govt. of U.P. & affiliated with the National Forensic Science University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat invites the applications for registration in order to get admission on vacant seats in this Institute for the following courses in the forthcoming Academic Session 2024-25:-

S.N.	Name of the Course	Mode of Selection
1.	B.Sc./M.Sc. Forensic Science (five-years integrated programme)	The selection shall be based on merit of the scores obtained in NFAT-2024, NEET-2023 & 2024, CUET (UG)-2023 & 2024.
2.	B.Sc. LL.B. (five-years integrated programme)	The selection shall be based on merit of the scores obtained in CLAT (UG)-2023 & 2024, CUET (UG)-2023 & 2024, JEE (Mains)-2024, AILET-2024.
3.	B.Tech.-M.Tech. Computer Science & Engineering (Cyber Security) (Five-years programme)	The selection shall be based on merit of the marks obtained in JEE(Mains) & (Advanced)-2024.
4.	M.Sc. Forensic Science (two-years programme)	The selection shall be based on merit of the scores obtained in NFAT-2024, CUET (PG)-2023 & 2024.
5.	LL.M. (Criminal Law & Criminal Justice Administration) (one-year programme)	The selection shall be based on merit of the scores obtained in CLAT (PG)-2023 & 2024, CUET (PG)-2023 & 2024, AILET-2024.
6.	M.Tech.-Artificial Intelligence & Data Science (Specialization in Cyber Security) (two-years programme)	The selection shall be based on merit of the score obtained in GATE 2023 & 2024 & CUET (PG)-2023 & 2024, NFAT-2024.

The unreserved vacant seats are open for all at All India Basis and the reserve seats are open to the applicants of State of Uttar Pradesh as per the reservation policy of the State Govt.
For the Registration & other details please visit the website www.upsifs.ac.in. For any query e-mail to admissions@upsifs.ac.in. Mobile No. 7839001310.
UPID RO: 217334 Director
RO Dt: 11-07-24 UPSIFS, Lucknow

CENTRAL POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(A Govt. of India Society, Ministry of Power)
Prof. Sir. C.V.Raman Road, Sadashivanagar P.O.
PB No.8066, Bangalore - 560 080.
ADVERTISEMENT NO. CPRI/05/2024
Call for Proposals : Sustainable Agrarian Mission on use of Agri-Residue in Thermal Power Plants (SAMARTH)
Research proposals are invited from Academia and R&D Institutions on some of the identified research areas of SAMARTH, under the **"R&D Schemes of MoP being implemented through CPRI"** in the area of co-firing of biomass in thermal power plants.
Proposals along with technical and financial particulars may be submitted in the prescribed **"R&D under National Perspective Plan (NPP)"** format. The duration of the project should not exceed 2 years. For further details and format, kindly visit the CPRI website **https://cpri.res.in**.
The last date for submission of the proposal is **09th August 2024.**

Additional Chief Engineer P.W.D. Zone-II, Jaipur
PWD Campus, Jacob Road, Jaipur, Phone:- 0141-2226537 Ex.:- 299
File No.- 803 Date- 04/07/2024
Short-Term NIB No.-03/PMGSY/2024-25
Bids for 3-No. Package for Renewal of Rural Roads in Alwar and Jaipur District are invited from interested bidders upto 12-00 Noon on 16-07-2024. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state; http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in and http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 545.08 lacs.

S. No.	UBN
1	PWD2425WSOB02134
2	PWD2425WSOB02133
3	PWD2425WSOB02167

Addl. Chief Engineer
PWD Zone-II, Jaipur
DIPR/C/5722/2024

Rajasthan Medical Education Society
(Directorate of Medical Education), Chikitsa Siksha Bhavan
Near Pink Square Mall, Opp. Psychiatric Centre, Janta Colony, Jaipur-302004
Tel No. +0141-2605994, Email: r.mes@rajasthan.gov.in
F.6(109)store/rajmes/furniture/Part-1/2024/3097 DATE 03/07/2024
(NIB for Publication on State Public Procurement Portal)
(NIB No. 71/2024-25)
Sealed Single Stage Two - envelopes and unconditional online Bids for **Rate contract for Supply and Installation of Various furniture Items in Raj-MES Medical Colleges for 2 years** are invited from interested bidder's **(From Micro/Small enterprises Manufacturers of Bid Item Situated in Rajasthan)** upto 25.07.2024 at 06.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.
UBN:- MES2425GLRC00074 Director,
DIPR/C/5611/2024 Raj-MES

नालको NALCO
National Aluminium Company Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Nalco Bhawan, P/1, Nayapalli
Bhubaneswar-751013, Odisha, India
CIN : L27203OR1981GOI000920
A NAVRATNA COMPANY
EXTENSION OF RFQ SUBMISSION DATE
FOR EMPANELMENT OF DIFFERENT CATEGORY OF HOSPITALS / PATHOLOGICAL LABS / CLINICS / PHYSIOTHERAPY CENTERS
The last date of submission of offer for RFQ **Ref no. TNCC-021/2024** for empanelment of different category of **Hospitals / Pathological Labs / Clinics / Physiotherapy Centers** etc is hereby further extended upto **02/08/2024**. For details and further updates visit **www.nalcoindia.com** (under Menu / Active Tender).
Dy. General Manager (T&C)

Government of Rajasthan
Department of Archaeology and Museums, Rajasthan
(Albert Hall Campus, Ramniwas Garden, Jaipur)
Phone: +91 141 2820360 email: dirarchraj@gmail.com
No. A&M/EE/2024/9120 Dated: 28/6/24
Notice Inviting 'Expression of Interest' (EoI) for Empanelment of Consultants in Archaeology and Museums Department, Jaipur
On behalf of Hon'ble Governor Rajasthan Archaeology and Museums Department, Jaipur proposals are invited from the experienced and working consultancy firms/ individuals/ companies/ joint venture companies/ consortium of allied professionals or firms/autonomous government owned enterprises etc. for empanelment of Consultant for Conservation, restoration and development works in Department of Archaeology and Museums, Rajasthan -

Estimated Cost of Project	This EOI is for empanelment only
EOI document Fee	Rs.1000.00
Processing Fees	Rs.1500.00
Bid Security	Not required at EOI Stage
Date of downloading of EOI documents on website	From 08.07.2024 to 22.07.2024 Up to 02.00 P.M.
Last date for upload proposals	22.07.2024 Up to 02.00 P.M
Date of opening of Technical Proposal	23.07.2024 Up to 03.00 P.M

Complete details relating to eligibility criteria, broad scope of work, procedure for submission of EoI proposals, terms and conditions and other information are available on the official website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in
Applications duly completed in all respect must be uploaded on website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in latest by 2:00 PM as prescribed above.
DIPR/C/5264/2024 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PHED CIRCLE NCR ALWAR
PHED CAMPUS, MANU MARG ALWAR (RAJ.) E-Mail - sencr.alw.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
No-897 - 909 Date- 01/7/24
NOTICE INVITING BID (NIT No. 01-12/2024-25) (Corrigendum No.-01)
Bids for Works of Construction of Source, PLJ of Rising Main & Distribution Pipe Line with FHTC, Construction of Reservoir for Various villages in the jurisdiction of PHED Division-II (NCR) Alwar, were invited earlier. Correction in Tender Document has been made. Last bid submission date is extended up to 05:00 PM on Date 22.07.2024. Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and https://phedwater.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website.
SPPP UBN No. of above NITs-

PHE2425WSOB01697	PHE2425WSOB01698	PHE2425WSOB01699	PHE2425WSOB01700
PHE2425WSOB01701	PHE2425WSOB01703	PHE2425WSOB01704	PHE2425WSOB01706
PHE2425WSOB01707	PHE2425WSOB01709	PHE2425WSOB01711	PHE2425WSOB01712

DIPR/C/5642/2024 Superintending Engineer, PHED Circle, NCR Alwar

INBRIEF

14-day judicial custody for Sena politician's family driver

The Sewri Court in Mumbai sent Rajrishi Bidawat, the driver employed by Shiv Sena politician Rajesh Shah, to a 14-day judicial custody on Thursday in a hit-and-run case. At the time of the accident in which a woman was killed on July 7, Mr. Bidawat was sitting next to the prime accused Mihir Shah, the 23-year-old son of Mr. Rajesh. The high-end car, owned by the politician, was being driven by Mihir, who was purportedly in an inebriated state. Based on instructions from Mr. Rajesh, Mr. Bidawat moved to the driver's seat after the accident, police said.

DRDO approval for seven new projects by the private sector

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has sanctioned seven new projects for the private sector under the Technology Development Fund scheme. The technologies include Underwater Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicles; the development of Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System-based timing acquisition and dissemination system and long-range remotely operated vehicles for detection and neutralisation of targets and development of ice-detection sensor for aircraft.

SC's alimony verdict: Muslim groups looking at legal options

Ziya Us Salam
NEW DELHI

The Muslim religious bodies have decided to adopt a wait and watch approach with respect to the Supreme Court's verdict earlier this week on Muslim women being entitled to a claim of maintenance under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure against her erstwhile husband.

Spokesperson of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board S.Q.R Ilyas told *The Hindu* that the Board's legal committee was studying the judgment. "On its advice, the Board may seek legal and other options available to us," he said.

The All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat president Zafarul Islam Khan called the order a "judicial overreach", while adding that Muslim organisations should approach a larger Bench to overturn this decision. Senior leaders of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind and Jamaat-e-Islami Hind (JIH) also preferred to understand the nuances of the verdict before deciding on a future course of action.

CBI arrests key accused in NEET paper leak case

Rakesh Ranjan, alias Rocky, was arrested from Jharkhand; special CBI court in Patna sends him to 10-day CBI custody; agency had seized copies of chequebook, voter and PAN cards from his house

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Thursday arrested one of the key accused, Rakesh Ranjan, alias Rocky, in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate) paper leak case.

Earlier this week, the CBI had searched 15 locations in Bihar and Jharkhand in connection with the case.

Mr. Ranjan allegedly ran a racket involved in the leaking of exam papers. CBI sources said he was arrested from Jharkhand and was brought here on Thursday. A special CBI court here remanded him in CBI custody for 10 days.

On June 30, the CBI team searched the house of Mr. Ranjan at Gagendra Bigha village in Hilsa block of Nalanda district. The team had to break the lock to enter the house. After a search for nearly an hour, the agency seized photocopies of some documents including a chequebook and voter and PAN cards.

A group of students met Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan at his residence to discuss the controversy around the NEET-UG examination, in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

Sources said the accused had arranged MBBS students from Patna and Ranchi to solve the NEET question paper after the leak and he is one of the trusted gang members of Sanjeev Mukhiya, who is believed to be the kingpin in the case. He is a relative of Mr. Mukhiya.

Mr. Ranjan is the sixth person from Nalanda to be arrested in the case. The last arrest was made by the CBI on July 9 when it arrested Sunny Kumar. With the arrest of Mr. Ranjan, 28 people have been arrested by the Bihar Police Economic Offences Unit and the CBI. The Central agency has arrested 10 from Bihar.

From Jharkhand, the CBI earlier arrested Ahsanul Haque, Principal, and Imtiaz Alam, Vice-Principal of Oasis School in Hazaribagh, along with a Hindi newspaper journalist, Jamaluddin, who allegedly assisted them on the day of test. Last week, the CBI had arrested Aman Singh from Dhanbad.

CBI sources said Mr. Ranjan was planning to flee to Nepal. With his arrest, the CBI has come closer to Mr. Mukhiya, alias Lootan, who is employed as a technical assistant at the Noorsarai Horticulture College in Nalanda. Mr. Mukhiya is a close associate of Ranjit Don, who was arrested by the CBI in 2003 for being involved in the Common Admission Test paper leak. Ranjit Don also hails from Hilsa.

'Youth posted a doctored NET paper; no question leak'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation is likely to file a chargesheet against a youth who allegedly circulated the screenshot of a "doctored" UGC-NET question paper on Telegram ahead of the test on June 18, which led to its cancellation over suspicion of a leak.

The CBI found out after taking over the investigation on June 23 that the screenshot was manipulated to create the impression that the question paper was available before the test was conducted. An alert from the Union Home Ministry on June 19 about a possible "breach" led to the cancellation of the test, officials said.

Nine lakh candidates had appeared across 317 cities for the test, which is held for Ph.D. admissions and entry-level teaching jobs in colleges and universities. The Home Ministry had received an input that the screenshot was circulated around 2 p.m. on the test day with comments suggesting a leak.

Chiefs of BSF, CISF reiterate 10% quota for Agniveers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As Centre feels the heat on Agnipath scheme, it fielded the chiefs of the Central Industrial Security Force and Border Security Force to reiterate the government's commitment to reserve 10% vacancies in Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) for Agniveers.

The first batch of Agniveers will be eligible for joining CAPFs in 2026.

On Thursday, Nina Singh, Director-General of CISF, and Nitin Agrawal, D-G, BSF appeared on *Doordarshan* to reiterate the reservation policy. Ms. Singh said, "The CISF has made all arrangements to absorb Agniveers. They will be an asset to the force. They will be exempted from physical eligibility test." Mr. Agrawal stated, "Since they are trained and disciplined, they will be aligned with BSF's work culture. After a short conversion training, they will be deployed at borders."

PM's heart bleeds for victims in Ukraine but not in Manipur, says Meitei body

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Meitei Coordinating Committee, one of the many conglomerates of Meitei organisations in Delhi, on Thursday questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to solving the crisis in Manipur while preaching peace at the international stage with regard to the conflict in Ukraine.

The DMCC, in a statement, said the Prime Minister had "no heart to bleed" for the hundreds killed in Manipur but apparently had one for the innocent lives lost in conflicts such as the one in Ukraine.

"In his addresses [in Russia], Prime Minister Modi underscored that 'peace is of utmost importance' and stressed that 'a solution to the war in Ukraine cannot be found on the battlefield'. While Prime Minister Modi's efforts to promote peace on the international stage have been applauded, his apparent neglect of a severe domestic crisis in Manipur has raised significant concerns among citizens and political observers," the committee said.

A demonstration organised by the Delhi Meitei Coordination Committee calling for an end to the violence in Manipur. FILE PHOTO

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has said that Mr. Modi was directly supervising peace efforts to end the ethnic conflict that has been on for more than 14 months now, for which talks had already purportedly started though both Meitei and Kuki bodies have said they have no knowledge of any such peace talks being under way.

The DMCC said it had gone through Mr. Modi's official schedule and found that he had travelled to Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh 21 times each in 2017 alone, but just once to Sikkim, Mizoram, and Puducherry, while visiting Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland just twice in the past four years.

"Between 2014 and 2018, he has travelled to U.P. the most for both official and unofficial trips, totalling 49 visits. The Prime Minister has visited his bastion, Gujarat, 23 times on official visits, with 10 unofficial visits, totalling 33; but had failed to visit Manipur, where the conflict had killed 221 people, displaced over 60,000 people, led to burning and vandalisation of thousands of homes and hundreds of religious structures, with dozens of people still missing."

Meanwhile, reacting to the Chief Minister's remarks that he had full confidence in Mr. Modi's direct supervision of the efforts to resolve the crisis in Manipur, Kuki bodies such as the Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM), the apex body of Kuki tribes in the State, said they had no knowledge of any peace talks. Several Meitei organisations have also said that they had no knowledge of such measures.

The Kuki Students Organisation in Churachandpur too issued a statement saying that they were not aware of any such peace talks being under way.

HC upholds larger warning labels on *pan masala* packs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has ruled in favour of the Union government's decision to increase the size of statutory warnings on *pan masala* packages to cover 50% of the front of the label, up from the previous 3 mm font size.

The court's decision came in response to a petition by a *pan masala* maker challenging the regulation issued by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

The company said there was no scientific basis to the increased size. No study was done by the committee formed under the Food Safety and Standards Act.

It appeared that the decision was taken at the instance of one member of the committee at its November 15, 2018 meeting.

The company alleged an inconsistency in warning sizes for similar harmful products, such as alcohol, that still had the 3 mm size.

The government said the more visible warnings would enhance consumer awareness.

The FSSAI said the increased warning size was part of a broader public health policy aimed at enhancing consumer awareness and was a reasonable restriction under Article 19 (6) of the Constitution.

The court, in its judgment on July 9, said the contention of the company that no scientific studies had been done before recommending the increase was without any merits.

It noted that the recommendation for increasing the statutory warning size was made by the committee at its 31st Meeting on November 15, 2018, on the basis of the scientific opinion of the Scientific Panel on Food Additives, which concluded that pan masala is not safe for human consumption.

The "regulation gives effect to the legislative intent of safeguarding the larger public interest which is paramount".

The court further referenced expert reports and guidelines from the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry of December 6, 2018, which showed that though there is a worldwide recommendation for banning *pan masala*, yet the Food Authority has for the present only taken the limited step of increasing the warning size.

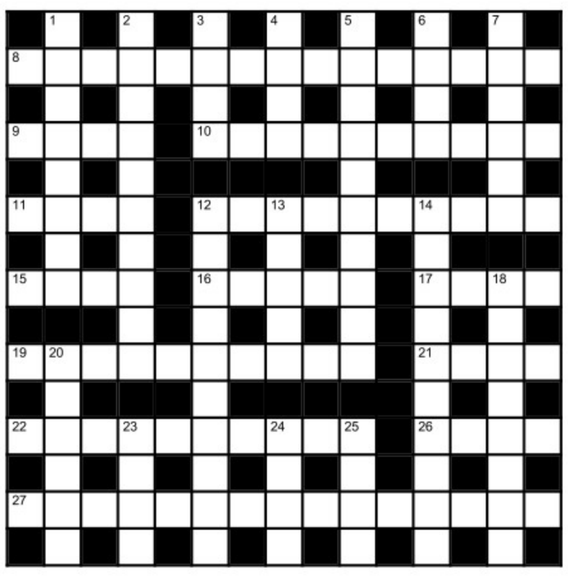
The resistance of the petitioners to the increase in the warning size while accepting the existence of the health hazard of *pan masala*, as evidenced by the expert studies, shows that the petitioner is only seeking to subserve personal interest without regard for the public health, the court said while dismissing the plea of the company.

TH CROSSWORD + 14225

(set by Vidwan)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Irrelevance of poor, desperate singles coming to head (15)
9 Champion of the romantics (4)
10 Support or convert into symmetry (10)
11 Ban English for zero level (4)
12 Supreme Court in splits! Certain to be charmed! (10)
15 Limit of accounts without limits (4)
16 Runs every distance (5)
17 Don't start to talk at summit (4)
19 Curious street diner, most exotic! (10)
21 Finishes send-off (4)
22 It is fine carbon copy prepared in careful and systematic manner (10)
26 Keen on it? No? Maybe! (4)
27 Logical justification right before state takeover of private property? Not new! (15)

Down

1 Picked one of the top players, having half of classes cancelled (8)
2 Short, popular race covering third of mile (10)
3 Moves camera lens around for a photograph (4)
4 Footballer Xabi's not working too (4)
5 Stunned! A second hundred! He is surprisingly beginning to dazzle! (10)
6 Join Navy in uniform (4)
7 Aground like sex worker without work (6)
12 Not remembering? Make time! Thing's not hard! (10)
13 Move one displaced by a staff (5)
14 Like epic art recreated in parody (10)
18 Shun cocaine habit for increment (8)
20 Drink and do trance (6)
23 Go out and have sex with an old flame first (4)
24 Bureaucrat's life, perhaps! (4)
25 Go after hot, unemployed client (4)

SUDOKU

					3		2	8
	6		1	8		3		
1					7			
			4			6		9
	4			7			1	
3		5			8			
			7					1
		1		5	2		7	
6	5		3					

No.SS6217 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

P	I	L	A	S	T	E	R	
R		A		L		X		
O	U	T	D	A	T	E	D	
M		E		T		R		G
P	O	L	Y	E	S	T	E	R
T		Y				E		I
			A	G	E	D		
M		S		O				
O	V	E	R	D	U	E		
R		V		F		R		E
O	P	E	R	A				
C		R		T		S		
C	R	E	C	H	E			
A		S		E				
N	O	T	A	R	Y			

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	8	4	5	6	1	7	3	2
2	3	1	7	8	9	5	4	6
5	6	7	3	2	4	1	9	8
1	4	5	2	9	8	6	7	3
7	2	8	6	4	3	9	5	1
6	9	3	1	5	7	8	2	4
4	7	2	8	1	5	3	6	9
3	1	9	4	7	6	2	8	5
8	5	6	9	3	2	4	1	7

FAITH

Guruvayurappan's greatness

Narayaneeyam begins with the words *Sandaranandham*, truly encapsulating the delight and spiritual merit one derives from stepping foot in Guruvayur. If *Sandra* signifies the purity of the ground, *anandham* denotes delights that is indescribable: it has to be experienced by each individual, much as Narayana Bhattathiri did, when he composed Narayaneeyam, said Damal S. Ramakrishnan in a discourse.

There are various kinds of *anandham*, but *Sandaranandham* is the highest form. Every morning before dawn at Guruvayur, devotees rush in, chanting His name in pure joy, eager for a first sight of Him. The ancient stone idol (*pathala anjana kal*) was fashioned by Vishnu Himself and handed over to Brahma who gave the idol to a couple. Vishnu informed the couple that he Himself would come to earth and conduct puja for the idol no less than three times and safeguard it so that devotees in Kali Yuga can reap spiritual benefit. Later, as His sojourn on earth was nearing its end, Krishna asked Uddava to save the idol from deluge. When Uddava struggled to hold aloft the idol, Varuna tempered the fury so that Guru and Vayu could spot the idol and preserve it. Since Guru and Vayu installed the idol, the town took the name of Guruvayur and the deity came to be known as Guruvayurappan.

INBRIEF

Shibaura Machine targets higher exports, revenue

Shibaura Machine India Pvt. Ltd., which is into manufacturing of high-end plastics injection moulding machines, aims to double exports and increase revenue by almost four-fold in the next 5 years with the expansion of its existing facility in Chennai, said Managing Director M. Kumar. "Today, we inaugurated the unit two factory at Chembarambakkam. It is built at an investment of ₹225 crore, plus another ₹50 crore for land acquisition," Mr. Kumar told mediapersons.

Brookfield to invest $200 mn in Leap Green Energy stake

Canadian asset management firm Brookfield on Thursday announced the acquisition of a majority stake in Tamil Nadu-based Leap Green Energy with an upfront investment of more than $200 million and an option to infuse $350 million more in the future. "Brookfield and Leap Green recently entered into definitive strategic investment agreements pursuant to which Brookfield has acquired a majority controlling stake in the company," the firm said. PTI

RBI allows resident Indians to open FCAs in GIFT City IFSC

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in a notification issued on Wednesday, allowed resident individuals to open Foreign Currency Accounts (FCAs) in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at GIFT City in Gujarat under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS). "Authorised persons [those permitted by RBI to provide forex services] shall bring the contents of this circular to the notice of their constituents and customers," the banking regulator added.

'Food prices a worry but June inflation may not exceed 5%'

Economists see favourable base effects tempering pace of retail price gains, with the headline reading likely slowing to less than 4% over July and August; CPI data release is likely on Friday

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Volatile and high food prices remain a concern, but base effects may temper the retail inflation pace in June and possibly even cool it below 4% over July and August, economists reckon.

Retail price rise touched a 12-month low of 4.75% in May, even though food inflation stayed stuck at 8.7% for a second straight month. The NSO will release June's Consumer Price Index data on Friday.

The prolonged heatwave and a delayed start to the southwest monsoon likely pushed June's inflation to 5%, said Radhika Rao, ED and senior economist at DBS Bank. Vegetable prices began to rise sharply as the month progressed, while telecom tariffs were raised, she said.

Base benefits

A favourable base effect is expected to help temper retail inflation over June through August period, economists reckon

- Retail price rise eased to 4.75% in May, though food inflation stayed stuck at 8.7% for a second month
- Heatwave, delayed start to monsoon likely pushed June's inflation to 5%: DBS Bank's Rao
- Ms. Rao sees no interest rate cuts this year citing RBI's resolve to look through base effects

With the monsoon regaining ground this month, vegetable prices are expected to moderate, and base effects will also push July-August inflation to sub-4%, she estimated. Ms. Rao, however, expects no interest rate cuts this year in light of the RBI's signal that they will look through base effect-driven swings and focus on sticky food prices.

In 2023, June inflation was 4.9% before it sped to 7.4% and 6.8% in July and August, respectively.

India Ratings sees inflation easing to 4.5% in June.

'Joint group formed for reforms in E&P sector'

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said a joint working group (JWG) has been constituted to improve ease of doing business in the exploration and production (E&P) sector. The JWG consists of private exploration and production operators, national oil companies, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons. Mr. Puri said 37 approvals have been simplified into 18, with nine eligible for self-certification. He said the government recognises the need for further reforms.

TCS net rose 8.7% to ₹12,040 cr. in Q1, buoyed by manufacturing

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) on Thursday reported consolidated first-quarter net profit grew 8.7% to ₹12,040 crore, as a 9.4% expansion in the manufacturing vertical offset degrowth in several other businesses. Net margin for the quarter ending June 30 was 19.2%, India's biggest IT services company by revenue said in a filing.

Revenue rose 5.4% to ₹62,613 crore, while operating margin, at 24.7%, saw an expansion of 1.5 percentage points year-on-year.

K. Krithivasan

Net cash from operations at ₹11,168 crore was 92.8% of net profit, TCS said. The board approved a dividend of ₹10 per share.

"We are continuing to expand our client relationships, create new capabilities in emerging technologies and invest in innovation, including a new AI-focused TCS Pace-Por in France, IoT lab in the U.S. and expanding our delivery centers in Latin America, Canada and Europe," CEO K. Krithivasan said in the statement.

"In spite of the usual impact of the annual wage increments in this quarter, we have delivered strong operating margin performance, validating our efforts towards operational excellence," said CFO Samir Seksaria.

BFSI shrank 0.9% in constant currency, consumer business slid 0.3%.

Rethink tax on debt oriented MFs: AMFI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Stressing the need for a deep and vibrant bond market spur private investments, India's apex mutual fund body urged the Finance Ministry to rethink the short-term capital gains tax introduced last year on debt-oriented mutual funds with equity exposure of up to 35%.

The Association of Mutual Funds in India has mooted amending 2023 Finance Act's Section 50AA, to encourage retail investor participation in bond markets through such debt funds, by bringing them on par with the tax treatment for government securities. For those instruments, capital gains held for over three years are taxed at 10% without any indexation, with the holding period reduced to 12 months for listed debentures.

Before the introduction of section 50AA, such mutual fund schemes enjoyed the twin benefit of indexation and lower long-term capital gains tax rate, if held for more than 3 years. However, they are now considered as short-term capital assets irrespective of holding period.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	79,897	-0.03
US Dollar	83.53	-0.02
Gold	75,100	0.06
Brent oil	85.35	-0.16

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3078.30	-17.70
Adani Ports	1483.85	-3.95
Apollo Hosp	6389.05	13.35
Asian Paints	3022.05	25.60
Axis Bank	1296.75	5.10
Bajaj Auto	9466.80	-75.65
Bajaj Finserv	1587.85	5.30
Bajaj Finance	6950.30	-104.65
Bharti Airtel	1437.95	-7.10
BPCL	306.60	6.25
Britannia Ind	5761.30	5.75
Cipla	1506.00	-7.20
Coal India	500.05	9.30
Divis Lab	4582.50	-54.45
Dr Reddys Lab	6594.75	2.20
Eicher Motors	4828.65	-20.50
Grasim Ind	2801.60	-0.55
HCL Tech	1511.90	1.95
HDFC Bank	1621.90	-4.20
HDFC Life	634.25	1.50
Hero MotoCorp	5526.25	17.50
Hindalco	696.30	3.00
Hind Unilever	2608.85	-1.60
ICICI Bank	1238.45	-4.75
IndusInd Bank	1429.75	3.80
Infosys	1652.70	4.45
ITC	458.65	7.20
JSW Steel	925.00	-0.40
Kotak Bank	1844.50	14.65
L&T	3621.10	-28.95
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5407.60	31.35
M&M	2698.05	-33.95
Maruti Suzuki	12715.20	-57.60
NestleIndia	2593.20	-23.25
NTPC	377.10	-4.30
ONGC	304.75	6.60
PowerGrid Corp	342.80	-3.25
Reliance Ind	3161.30	-7.15
SBI Life	1558.80	0.00
State Bank	856.70	7.70
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2739.00	-23.10
Sun Pharma	1581.75	-16.80
TataConsumerProduct	1131.40	-19.40
Tata Motors	1020.80	15.30
Tata Steel	168.92	0.94
TCS	3923.70	14.55
Tech Mahindra	1460.60	-2.75
Titan	3248.60	23.60
UltraTech Cement	11554.95	-79.30
Wipro	534.10	-1.45

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 11

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.36	83.68
Euro	90.42	90.77
British Pound	107.33	107.75
Japanese Yen (100)	51.60	51.80
Chinese Yuan	11.47	11.52
Swiss Franc	92.79	93.15
Singapore Dollar	61.85	62.10
Canadian Dollar	61.12	61.36
Malaysian Ringitt	17.77	17.86
Australian Dollar	56.31	56.52

Source:Indian Bank

Keep raising road-infra spending, frame policies to boost electrification

BUDGET IN FOCUS

Santhosh Iyer

The growth of the automotive industry in India has happened because of the excellent road infrastructure which has been created during the last couple of years. A lot of intercity travel means consumers want luxury cars, they want to have safer cars and that has helped drive growth in the industry.

This time, from the Union Budget, we would expect not only continuity in infrastructure spending but also higher spending on road infrastructure because there is a lot of headroom for improvement for the industry to grow.

Right path: Excellent road infrastructure created in the last couple of years has boosted the growth of the auto industry. THE HINDU

Retain EV tax sops

For long-term success of electrification of automobiles, one of the big factors helping us, is the reduced duty structure that enables to price Electric Vehicles (EVs) close to Internal Combustion Engines (ICE) cars. Our expectation is the government comes out with a clear policy roadmap and gives a statement the tax incentives will continue for next 8 to 10 years.

This will give confidence to customers to get into EVs and OEMs to invest more when it comes to electrification. OEMs like us would be interested in introducing new cars in the Indian market. There is also a pressing need for the State governments to continue commitment to EV adoption, continuing tax breaks and incentives that attract end consumers.

For charging infrastructure, the onus is on Charging Point Operators (CPOs) to set up the desired network to democratise chargers. Today, we find a lot of CPOs are not opening up their APIs so the customers need to download multiple apps to charge their cars.

Common CPO platform

To address this, the government can come with a common platform for all CPOs to list, so that customers have the ease of payment like UPI to transact when it comes to charging EVs.

Apart from this, there are a lot of good ideas the world over to make it toll free for electric cars, providing special parking facility in cities for EVs.

So, I think, no amount of incentives is less, because electrification needs a major push from the government.

Zero emissions

As India aggressively transitions towards carbon neutrality, the government's role also becomes more pronounced. We believe the road towards creating a carbon-neutral ecosystem will come from zero emission, which can be delivered by electrification. OEMs, suppliers, vendors, policymakers and all other key stakeholders have to come together, work in close cooperation to ensure we create a robust, resilient and time-bound EV ecosystem.

At OEM level, the industry is ensuring we actively encourage EV adoption not just by introducing high-tech and desirable product offerings, but we also focus on easing the total cost of ownership.

This the OEMs are doing via offering long battery warranties, attractive residual value for EVs which are comparable with ICE vehicles and also extending service intervals to prolong any workshop visits.

Educating clients

The industry should continue to not only focus on introducing new products, but also spend time and resources for enhancing consumer-education initiatives across markets.

The actual acceleration of EV adoption can only happen when there is a strong demand from consumers for these technologies; but for that, we need concerted and coordinated efforts from OEMS, policymakers and customers.

When it comes to import duties, we have been in India for 30 years doing business based on the current taxation structure.

Continuity in taxation

Though lower taxes are always welcome, we also need to be pragmatic considering the current economic as well as political compulsions. So, we are realistic there, when it comes to tax cost. Hopefully, there are no increases as such in this Union Budget and there is continuity in taxation which should help us to do business as usual.

We expect the Indian auto industry to grow at 7% to 8% or maximum at 10% this year. The luxury car market size is 1 to 1.2% of the total industry and this segment should grow in double digit, may be slightly faster than the mass market passenger cars, because the base is low.

Strong market

Right now, if you look at the enablers; the stock market is at all-time high, the real estate sector is doing well, tax collections are at a record high.

So, we do not see any impediments to achieve the projected growth.

With the incoming festive season combined with the wedding season and the depreciation month of September [a lot of consumers buy cars in September to claim depreciation benefits), I think the market will remain strong in the balance part of the year as well.

(Santosh Iyer is Managing Director & CEO, Mercedes-Benz India. As told to Lalatendu Mishra)

Edible-oil firm Gemini enters TN via Be-Rite brand

The Hindu Bureau

Gemini Edibles and Fats India Ltd. (GEF), an edible-oil firm, forayed into Tamil Nadu under Be-Rite brand in a bid to capture 10-15% market share in five years.

"It was a conscious decision to give a new brand name for our product in Tamil Nadu, instead of the existing brand Freedom," Senior VP Sales & Marketing P. Chandra Shekhara Reddy told the media.

"It was a market-driven decision," he said. GEF's turnover stood at '₹9,000 crore plus in FY23-24.'

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY,
(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court the Special Officer & Competent Authority (under KPIDFE-IMA and other Scam), is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.
The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

Short description of the Immovable Property

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and Confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004.

Sl. No.	SCHEDULE PROPERTY - Under Construction 69 flats (SKY VIEW APARTMENTS)
1.	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No.412, 416/1 and 416/2 of Devanahalli village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, together measuring 7 Acres 16 guntas, residentially converted by the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore vide ALN(DK) SR.No.86/2012-13, dated: 20-04-2013, ALN (DK) SR 50/2012-13, dated: 20-04-2013 and ALN (DK) SR 52/2012-13, dated: 20-04-2013 respectively comes under the administrative jurisdiction of Devanahalli Town municipal council, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District bounded on: East by: Road, West by: Sy.no.413 & 420, North by: Sy.no 417 & 419, South by: Private property and Sy.no. 411. (Under Construction 69 flats (SKY VIEW APARTMENTS), for more details please visit Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in & https://sploca.karnataka.gov.in/), Google Map Link: **https://maps.app.goo.gl/kcpwxUcBiPP37ztZ7**
	SCHEDULE PROPERTY - Completed 8 flats (THE GREENS APARTMENTS)
2.	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy. No 33,35/3, 35/4 and 174 of Village and Sy.No.224, 184/5 and 189 of Bidaregere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District Together measuring 12-24.08 Acres (Converted by DC Bangalore urban Vide O.M. No. ALN (A&K) sr 118/2010-11 Dt: 23-2-2011, 44/2011-12 Dt:30/9/2011, 47,48/2011-12 dt: 30/9/2011 and O.M 163/2012-13 Dt:27/11/2012 under the Administrative Jurisidiction of Karpoor Grampanchayath, kasaba hobli, Anekal Taluk , Bangalore Rural District bounded on:East by: Sy.No.190 of Bidaregere village & Sy.no.32 of Karpoor village, West by: Road, North by: Sy. No. 28 and 29 of Karpoor village , South by: Sy.no. 183, 184,186,187,188,192 and 193 of bidargere village . (8 flats (THE GREENS APARTMENTS), for more details please visit Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in & https://sploca.karnataka.gov.in/), Google Map Link: **https://maps.app.goo.gl/bLq2UMgBvS5ArSdq5**

Bid Increase Value: **Rs.25,000/-**
Date of Pre-bid meeting & time : **7th August 2024 3 pm to 4 pm**
Date of Inspection & time: **8th August 2024 11:00am to 05:00pm**
Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission: **9th August 2024 until 5pm**
Date & Time of E Auction : **12th August 2024 11 am to 1 pm**
For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Joint Secretary, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswaraiah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: **splocaeauction@gmail.com** or Contact Mob. No 6364403715

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 03.07.2024
DIPR/CP/880/Zen/2024-25

Sd/-
The Special Officer & Competent Authority
(Under KPIDFE - IMA & Other Scam)
Bengaluru, Karnataka

ISLAMABAD

About 44,000 Afghans in Pakistan awaiting resettlement in the West

ANI

At least 44,000 Afghans approved for relocation to Western nations following the Taliban's return to power are still waiting in limbo in Pakistan, Islamabad said on Thursday.Pakistani Foreign Office Spokeswoman Mumtaz Zahra Baloch (*in picture*) said there were 25,000 Afghans approved for relocation to the U.S. AFP

PARIS

Blaze breaks out in spire of Rouen medieval cathedral in France

AFP

A fire broke out Thursday in the spire of the medieval cathedral in the French city of Rouen, but authorities said it was under control about 90 minutes later. Witnesses described smoke emanating from the spire and recalled a devastating fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris that toppled its spire and collapsed its roof. AP

BANGKOK

Myanmar junta 'trying to destroy country': UN special rapporteur

REUTERS

Myanmar's junta appears to be "trying to destroy a country it cannot control", the UN special rapporteur warned on Thursday. "The junta is on its heels, it's losing troops, it's losing military facilities, it is literally losing ground," UN special rapporteur Tom Andrews said during a briefing. AFP

PARIS

France's Left leaders blast Macron, demand Prime Minister's post

AP

French Left-wingers attacked President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday after he called for a broad coalition government, demanding that their movement alone should propose a Prime Minister. Socialist Party chief Olivier Faure accused Mr. Macron of failing to "respect the vote of the French people". AFP

China is a 'decisive enabler' of Russia's war, says NATO

Beijing says 'NATO hyping up China's responsibility on the Ukraine issue is unreasonable and has sinister motives'; the U.S. says it will start deployment of long-range missiles in Germany from 2026

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg and others attend a meeting in Washington on Thursday. REUTERS

NATO leaders on Thursday looked to bolster ties with Asian partners after slamming China as a "decisive enabler" of Russia's war, before holding talks with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the end of a summit in Washington. The 32-nation alliance has used the pomp-filled set piece in the U.S. capital to showcase its resolve against Moscow and backing for Kyiv.

After spending the bulk of the summit focused on bolstering Ukraine, NATO shifted attention eastwards by welcoming the leaders of Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea.

A declaration from NATO released on Wednesday called Beijing a "decisive enabler of Russia's war against Ukraine" through its supplies of dual-use goods such as microchips that can help Moscow's military. China "cannot enable the largest war in Europe in recent history without this negatively impacting its interests and reputation," it said.

Beijing hit back by warning NATO to "stop hyping up the so-called China threat and provoking confrontation and rivalry".

China presents itself as a neutral party in the conflict, but it has however offered a critical lifeline to Russia's isolated economy, with trade booming since the conflict began.

After the sit-down, Ukraine's Mr. Zelenskyy will take centre stage at the giant convention centre in the heart of the U.S. capital.

The U.S. announced it would begin "episodic deployments" of long-range missiles to Germany in 2026. The White House said it would eventually look to permanently station them in Germany, and the missiles would "have significantly longer range" than current U.S. systems in Europe.

'Bringing chaos to Asia'

China accused NATO of seeking security at the expense of others and told the alliance not to bring the same "chaos" to Asia.

"NATO hyping up China's responsibility on the Ukraine issue is unreasonable and has sinister motives," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said. He said China has a fair and objective stance on the Ukraine issue.

NATO starts sending F-16 jets to support Ukraine

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

NATO allies on Wednesday announced they had started transferring F-16 jets to Ukraine while stepping up promises to Kyiv on eventual membership in the alliance, at a 75th anniversary summit clouded by political uncertainties in the United States.

U.S. President Joe Biden individually welcomed the other 31 leaders of the alliance before urging them to keep pace with Russia's military production.

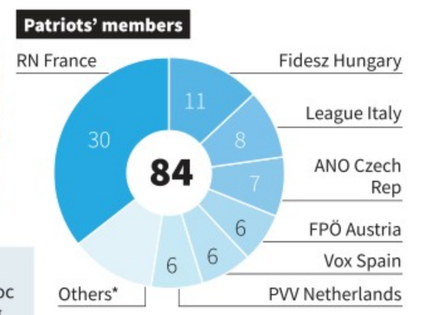
"We can - and will - defend every inch of NATO territory and we'll do it together," Mr. Biden told the North Atlantic Council.

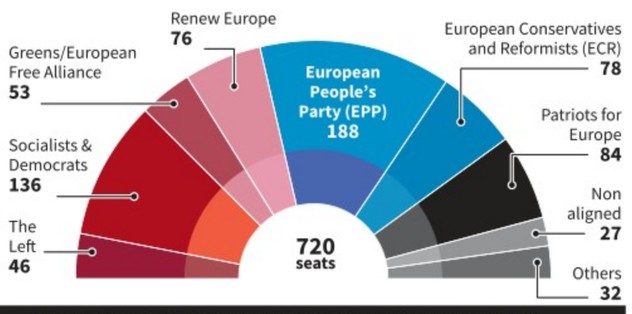
Mr. Biden announced that Denmark and the Netherlands had begun sending U.S.-made F-16 jets to Ukraine - making good on a key promise last year to Kyiv, which has struggled to gain parity in the air with Russia.

Bardella to lead European far-right group

Jordan Bardella, of France's National Rally (RN), will head a new right-wing bloc, Patriots for Europe, which has become the third-largest force, in the 720-member EU Parliament

Patriots For Europe: Founded by Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán (1) and led by Bardella (2), the bloc comprises far-right parties from 12 countries, including Italy's League party of Matteo Salvini (3)





Notable absentees from Patriots are Brothers of Italy (FdI) of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni (4), which belongs to ECR, and German Alternative for Germany (AfD)

SOURCE: GRAPHIC NEWS

Israel military declares end to operation in northern Gaza

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

A Palestinian woman rides a bicycle past the rubble of destroyed buildings in east of Gaza city on Thursday. AFP

Israeli air strikes pounded parts of Gaza's biggest city on Thursday, Hamas said, after Israel's military declared an end to its operation in an eastern district that saw Gaza City's heaviest combat in months.

The upsurge in fighting, bombardment and displacement followed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's statement in June that "the war in its intense phase is about to end". It also came as talks were held in the Gulf Emirate of Qatar towards a truce and hostage release deal after more than nine months of war.

Gaza's ruling Hamas Islamists said troops had pulled back from Gaza City's eastern district of Shujaiya leaving behind "more than 300 residential units and more than 100 businesses destroyed".

Witnesses said tanks and troops had moved into other Gaza City areas, and clashes between Israeli forces and militants were occurring. Hamas on Thursday reported 45 air strikes in the Gaza City area, and in Rafah.

The Health Ministry said six bodies had been recovered after the pullback of Israeli troops from Shujaiya. On Wednesday, the Army dropped leaflets warning "everyone in Gaza City" that the area would "remain a dangerous combat zone".

Clooney, Democrats pile pressure on Biden

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

George Clooney. AP

A Democratic Senator on Wednesday called on U.S. President Joe Biden to ditch his reelection bid, capping a brutal day that saw mounting pressure from actor and donor George Clooney and party heavyweight Nancy Pelosi.

As the 81-year-old tried to show his leadership credentials at a NATO summit in Washington, calls have been growing for Mr. Biden to quit following his disastrous debate performance against Republican challenger Donald Trump.

At least eight House Democrats have openly called on Mr. Biden not to seek reelection, but Peter Welch became the first in the Senate to explicitly do so as concerns rise over his age and fitness.

"For the good of the country, I'm calling on President Biden to withdraw from the race," the Vermont Senator said in an opinion piece in the *Washington Post*.

News outlet *Axios* reported on Wednesday that Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer had also privately signalled to donors that he was open to replacing Mr. Biden on the Democratic ticket.

However, in a statement, Mr. Schumer said "I support President Biden and remain committed to ensuring Donald Trump is defeated in November."

Hollywood star Mr. Clooney penned a devastating editorial in the *New York Times* on Wednesday just three weeks after co-hosting a huge fundraiser in Los Angeles that raised nearly $30 million for Mr. Biden. "It's devastating to say it, but the Joe Biden I was with three weeks ago at the fundraiser was not the Joe Biden of 2010," he wrote. "He wasn't even the Joe Biden of 2020. He was the same man we all witnessed at the debate."

He said that Mr. Biden would lose the presidential election, and Democrats would also lose both chambers of Congress.

In response to Mr. Clooney's editorial, the Biden campaign pointed to the President's statements on Monday saying he was committed to running again in November.

Sport

Lerma heads Colombia into a Copa final after 23 years

On a high! Colombia's Lerma rises majestically to slot in the lone goal of the second semifinal. AP

Reuters
CHARLOTTE

Colombia beat Uruguay 1-0 in its Copa America semifinal on Wednesday despite playing the second half with only 10 men as Jefferson Lerma's first-half header set up a title decider against defending champion Argentina. Colombia's only triumph had come in 2001 when it played host.

Colombia's Daniel Munoz was sent off at the end of the first half and while Uruguay dominated possession, it could not make the man-advantage count with Darwin Nunez missing three good opportunities to score early on.

The Liverpool forward had a great chance in the box in the 17th minute but curled his effort inches wide before a scuffed shot and another curling strike failed to find the target as he sat on his haunches wondering how he had missed.

Uruguay was made to pay for those missed chances when Lerma rose above the defence at a corner and squeezed his header past goalkeeper Sergio Rochet as James Rodriguez claimed his sixth assist of the tournament.

Munoz ejected

Colombia was then reduced to 10 men when right back Munoz received a second yellow card for elbowing Manuel Ugarte in the chest when play was stopped.

With Uruguay dominating possession in the second half, Bielsa threw on Luis Suarez in the 67th minute and the veteran striker nearly scored moments later, the 37-year-old's shot hitting the post as he sank to his knees in frustration.

Colombia had a golden opportunity to seal the win in the 88th minute when it won the ball back in Uruguay's box but Mateus Uribe sent his low shot wide. He saw another one deflect off the keeper and cannon off the crossbar in added time.

Colombia, which extended its unbeaten run to 28 games, held on for a famous win and will play Argentina in Sunday's final. Uruguay will play Canada a day earlier in the third-place playoff.

The result: Colombia 1 (Lerma 39) bt Uruguay 0.

India to tour Sri Lanka later this month for three ODIs and T20Is

CRICKET

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India will play three T20Is and as many ODIs during its tour of Sri Lanka during July and August, and the matches will be played at Pallekele and Colombo, the BCCI announced on Thursday.

The tour will kick off with the T20Is (July 26, 27, 29) at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium and the series will then move to Colombo where the one-dayers (August 1, 4, 7) will be played at the R. Premadasa International Stadium.

India will be manned by newly-appointed head coach Gautam Gambhir, while the Lankans will also have a new coach in Sanath Jayasuriya.

Hasaranga quits

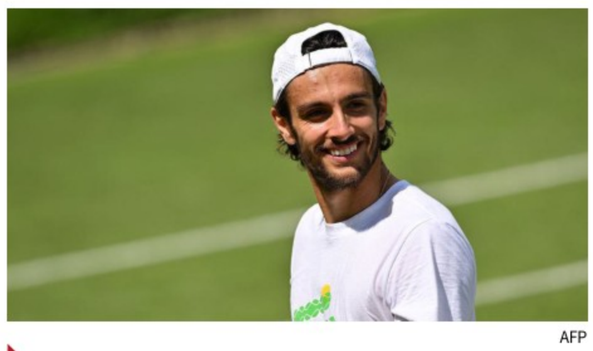
Meanwhile, Sri Lanka, which was ousted in the group stages of the T20 World Cup, will have a new skipper after Wanindu Hasaranga stepped down from his post on Thursday.

This will be India's first white-ball bilateral trip to the island nation since 2021. The tourists had won both the T20I and ODI series on that occasion.

The schedule: T20Is: July 26, 27 & 29 (Pallekele); **ODIs:** August 1, 4 & 7 (Colombo).

MAGIC

Musetti says making semifinal 'best day of life after son's birth'



AFP

Lorenzo Musetti said reaching his first Grand Slam semifinal at Wimbledon was the best day of his life after the birth of his son. Musetti defeated USA's Taylor Fritz and will face Novak Djokovic for a place in the final. "It's a magic day," said the 22-year-old. "I have to say after the birth of my son, I will put this in the second position today."

STANDING FIRM

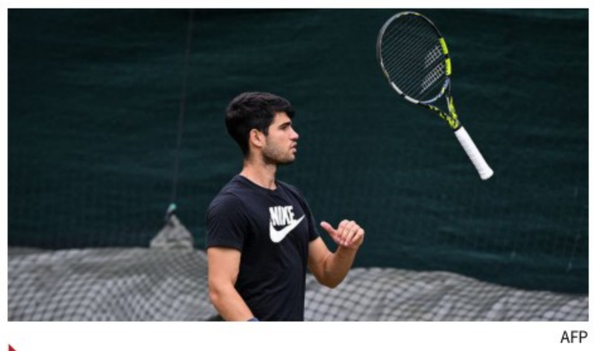
Barty plays exhibition doubles at Wimbledon but happy to stay retired

AP

Ash Barty was searching for a thesaurus after her exhibition doubles match at Wimbledon on Wednesday. A three-time Grand Slam singles champion, Barty retired just over two years ago at the age of 25. She plans to stay retired. "You guys are killing me," Barty told journalists. "Anyone have a thesaurus for a word that I can use for no?'"

CANDID

Medvedev is like a wall, every ball bounces back: Alcaraz



AFP

Carlos Alcaraz was candid and clear when asked about his Wimbledon semifinal opponent Daniil Medvedev. "The most difficult thing about facing Daniil, or the most special thing about him, is he can reach every ball," Alcaraz said. "He is like a wall. Every ball bounces back," added the Spaniard.

CLEAR VISION

Need to give my 100% every single day, says Washington

AFP

Washington Sundar said on Wednesday that he "needs to give his 100%" to stake a claim for the spin all-rounder's slot in India's T20 side, a spot that is up for grabs after the retirement of Ravindra Jadeja. "I need to give my 100% every single day. That's something that I have not compromised on," said Washington.

Gritty Paolini outlasts Vekic in an epic, earns a shot at glory

The Italian loses the opening set before raising her game in the second, the thrilling decider lasts an hour and 25 minutes; Krejcikova comes from behind to knock out the 2022 All England champion Rybakina in another exciting duel

WIMBLEDON

N. Sudarshan
LONDON

Women's tennis is in a unique place where there is space for both the familiar and the novel. There have been repeat Slam champions in the recent past, like Iga Swiatek and Aryna Sabalenka. There have also been first-time winners like Marketa Vondrousova and surprise finalists like Zheng Qinwen.

Wimbledon 2024 has stayed true to this, and on Thursday, Barbora Krejcikova and Jasmine Paolini became the latest to join this assorted bunch, setting up Saturday's final following come-from-behind victories.

While Krejcikova, the 2021 French Open champion, overcame Elena Rybakina, the 2022 All England winner, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, Paolini edged a two-hour 51-minute thriller over Croatia's Donna Vekic 2-6, 6-4, 7-6(8).

In all fairness, Paolini is no novice. The 28-year-old finished runner-up to Swiatek at the French Open just a month ago and entered Wimbledon seeded seventh.

But she would have been nobody's bet to make a second straight final, for she had never won a main draw match at SW19, and the last woman to make the title-round in both Paris and London back to back was the legendary Serena Williams.

'Fight for every ball': Paolini refused to throw in the towel despite being a set down and falling behind in the third. GETTY IMAGES

"It was really tough," said a beaming Paolini after the Centre Court epic. "She was hitting winners everywhere and I was struggling. But I told myself to fight and there is no place better than here to fight for every ball. I will remember this forever."

For a good part of the contest, it seemed like she would end up remembering it for the wrong reasons. Paolini was clearly the craftier player, but Vekic's superior weight of stroke was a big advantage.

Vekic had six inches on Paolini, and it showed in the way she muscled the ball. A solitary break in the fifth game was enough for Vekic to take the first set, as she won 16 of 19 service points and blasted 12 winners to Paolini's five.

In the second, the Italian raised her game, serving better, scurrying all over, making Vekic hit the extra shot and pulling the trigger herself when the opportunity arose. Paolini gave the ball a lot more air and hit with more spin to make Vekic's flat strokes difficult to control.

This was evident in the 10th game of the second set when Vekic served at 4-5 and Paolini hurried her 28-year-old opponent into making two forehand errors. A nervy Vekic then dumped a double fault before a slapped forehand winner from Paolini levelled matters.

The decider was a one-hour 25-minute slugfest that will eventually come to define this duel. In the first eight games, the two traded breaks twice. Paolini hit at varying trajectories, giving Vekic multiple problems. But the latter managed to hold on, battling fatigue by going for the point-ending extreme angle and mostly finding it.

Vekic saved two match-points – the second with a terrific down-the-line forehand – and Paolini two break-points, as the match unsurprisingly slipped into the 10-point tie-breaker.

They were again neck to neck, fighting to 8-8, before two forehand errors from Vekic sealed Paolini's spot in the summit clash.

THE RESULTS

Women: Semifinals: 7-Paolini (Ita) bt Vekic (Cro) 2-6, 6-4, 7-6(8). 31-Krejcikova (Cze) bt 4-Rybakina (Kaz) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Today's matches
5-Medvedev (Rus) vs 3-Alcaraz (Esp)
25-Musetti (Ita) vs 2-Djokovic (Srb)

Hall of Famers Amritraj, Paes and Evans feted

Honoured: Evans, Amritraj and Paes at the felicitation event in Wimbledon on Thursday. N. SUDARSHAN

N. Sudarshan
LONDON

Vijay Amritraj, Leander Paes and Richard Evans, the 2024 International Tennis Hall of Fame inductees, were honoured at an event held on the sidelines of The Championships in Wimbledon, on Thursday.

Amritraj, a former top-20 player and celebrated broadcaster, and Evans, a renowned author and journalist, have been inducted in the contributor category, while Paes, an 18-time Major champion and Olympic bronze medallist, is in the player category.

Interestingly, Paes was in the first batch of trainees at the erstwhile Britannia Amritraj Tennis Academy (BAT) in Chennai and Evans is the co-author of Amritraj's autobiography.

"What a privilege to watch these two who were naturally skillful at a difficult sport," Evans said about Amritraj and Paes. "There was elegance, power and skill in them for such a long period of time.

"And we media guys couldn't have found more approachable players. I am honoured to be sandwiched between these two Indians."

Paes credited the Amritraj family for shaping his tennis career and also recollected the first time he met Evans.

"I grew up watching these guys," Paes said, pointing to Amritraj. "I wouldn't be what I am today without them. At that time, I was on a football scholarship at a European club. Tennis was never on my mind.

"Anand, his brother, gave me an audition. On 12th May 1986, I joined BAT. I went to church every Sunday with their parents. The history I share with them, I am greatly proud of.

"On that 12th May, Richard [Evans] was also there, writing Vijay's autobiography. He asked me what I wanted to be and I said Olympic champion. He said I could also be a tennis Hall of Famer if I worked hard. To sit with them now is my greatest privilege," added Paes.

Amritraj, on his part, said his whole tennis journey was surreal. "All of these were distant goals. I am amazed at my parents who actually imagined and dreamed of things we couldn't.

"This [award] gives me a flash of my memory. From [age] 7 to 70 flashed before me. When I played, it was always an Indian on Centre Court, not me. So this is India being honoured."

Tendulkar's was a big wicket, he was the 'best batter' to bowl to: Anderson

Press Trust of India
LONDON

England fast bowling great James Anderson, who is into his final few days as an international cricketer, enjoyed his battles against Sachin Tendulkar the most over the course of his remarkably long career.

Even though Anderson dismissed Tendulkar on nine occasions, he could not have a set plan against the Indian master blaster.

Biggest test

"The best batter I would have to say is Sachin Tendulkar," Anderson told Sky Sports when asked about the toughest batter he bowled to.

"I don't remember having a specific game plan against Sachin Tendulkar. Once he came on, I would just think that I cannot bowl a bad ball here, he was that kind of player.

"He was a key for India as well. If you get him out in India, the whole atmosphere, in the ground changes.

"He was such a big wicket," Anderson said.

Enjoyable competition

Anderson said both he and Tendulkar enjoyed success against each other.

"You just try on bowling your best ball, top of off-stump, the whole time and hope he miss a straight one. In England, he might knick the odd one, but generally, I'd try and get him out leg-before early," he said.

"I had some success against him, but he had success against me as well. He got runs against us quite a lot," Anderson said.

Worthy rivals! Though Anderson got the better of Tendulkar on nine occasions, the Indian maestro also held his own against the England speedster. GETTY IMAGES

Windies in dire straits after Smith's knock gives England a big lead

WI IN ENGLAND

Reuters
LONDON

West Indies limped to 79 for six at stumps on the second day of the first Test against England at Lord's on Thursday, trailing the host by 171 runs and heading for a heavy defeat.

Half-centuries by Joe Root, Harry Brook and Jamie Smith lifted England to a first-innings total of 371 before James Anderson, playing his 188th and last Test match, bowled Windies captain Kraigg Brathwaite with a fine delivery that jagged back.

Kirk McKenzie, Mikyle Louis and Kavem Hodge fell cheaply and only a battling partnership between Alick Athanaze and Jason Holder ensured the game went into a third day.

Hitting away: Smith played to his potential, smashing two sixes and eight fours. GETTY IMAGES

Anderson dismissed Athanaze for 22, however, and Gus Atkinson snared Holder for 20 with the final ball of the day.

Earlier, England had resumed on 189 for three and Brook batted with attacking intent, reaching his 12th fifty in 13 Tests. Ben Stokes was bowled by Gudakesh Motie with a ball that spun sharply.

Root eased to his 62nd Test fifty and looked completely untroubled until just before lunch when Motie produced another fine turning delivery to bowl him for 68.

The 23-year-old Smith, making his Test debut, shared a 52-run partnership with Chris Woakes who was caught at square leg off Jayden Seales for 23.

Fast bowler Gus Atkinson, who took seven West Indies first-innings wickets on his debut, fell first ball to Holder and Smith went on the attack, hitting two big sixes and eight fours in the sunshine to underline his potential.

Shoaib Bashir was run out by a brilliant throw from Louis and Smith became Seales' fourth victim when he holed out to McKenzie. Anderson did not face a ball in what may be his final Test innings after receiving another warm ovation from the crowd as he walked out to bat.

The scores:

West Indies 121 & 79/6 in 34.5 overs vs. England 371 in 90 overs (Crawley 76, Pope 57, Root 68, Brook 50, Smith 70, Seales 4/77).

INBRIEF

Girmay wins stage 12; Morkov withdraws with COVID-19

Eritrean Biniam Girmay won the 12th stage of the Tour de France on Thursday, a 204-kilometer ride from Aurillac to Villeneuve-Sur-Lot. Girmay took his third victory in this year's Tour, edging out Wout van Aert and Arnaud Demare who rounded out the podium, while Slovenian Tadej Pogacar retained the overall leader's yellow jersey. Meanwhile, the veteran rider Michael Morkov of the Astana team withdrew from the Tour before the start of the 12th stage because of a COVID-19 infection. The 39-year-old Dane tested positive on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning.

Sumit Nagal loses in Challenger second round

Second seed Sumit Nagal lost 6-4, 7-5 to Pedro Cachin of Argentina in the pre-quarterfinals of the €148,625 Challenger tennis tournament in Braunschweig, Germany.

Other results: €120,950 Challenger, Iasi, Romania: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Anirudh Chandrasekar & Arjun Kadhe bt Abdullah Shelbayh (Jor) & Adolfo Vallejo (Par) 7-6(6), 6-2.
€120,950 Challenger, Trieste, Italy: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Rithvik Bollipalli & Niki Poonacha bt Inigo Cervantes (Esp) & Luca Margaroli (Sui) 2-6, 6-1,[10-7].
Pre-quarterfinals: Rithvik & Niki bt Zvonimir Babic & Luka Mikrut (Cro) 6-2, 3-6, [10-6].
$25,000 ITF men, Tianjin: Pre-quarterfinals: S. Mukund bt Chung Yun Seong (Kor) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.
$15,000 ITF men, Litija, Slovenia: First round: Peter Heller (Ger) bt Manas Dhamne 6-2, 6-2.
$15,000 ITF, Nakhon Si Thammarat: Men: Pre-quarterfinals: Mitsuki Leong (Mas) bt Dhakshineswar Suresh 7-6(3), 6-3. **Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Adil Kalyanpur & Vishnu Vardhan bt Jayden Court (Aus) & Kazuma Kawachi (Jpn) 6-4, 6-3. **Women: Pre-quarterfinals:** Rinon Okuwaki (Jpn) bt Akanksha Nitture 6-0, 7-5; Ayumi Koshishi (Jpn) bt Sonal Patil 6-3, 6-1. **First round:** Sonal bt Ashmitha Easwaramurthi 6-3, 6-3.
$15,000 ITF women, Lakewood, USA: First round: Paris Corley (USA) bt Teja Tirunelveli 6-0, 4-6, 6-3.
$15,000 ITF women, Monastir: First round: Maria Kalyakina bt Tanisha Kashyap 6-4, 6-2.

Ganguly buys Kolkata team in Indian Racing League

Former India cricket captain and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has joined the motorsports bandwagon by becoming the owner of Kolkata Royal Tigers Racing team in the Indian Racing Festival. It has two main championships – Indian Racing League (IRL) and Formula 4 Indian Championship (F4IC). Eight city-based teams – Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Goa, Kochi, and Ahmedabad – will compete in the championship from August to November.

LIVE TELECAST

England vs West Indies: 1st Test, day 3, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 p.m.
Wimbledon: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 p.m.
Cycling: Tour de France, Eurosport (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

Watkins' last-gasp strike puts England in its second successive summit clash

Simons gives the Dutch the lead with a screamer after seven minutes before Kane scores from the spot in the 18th minute to restore parity

Reuters
DORTMUND

Smoothly done! Watkins, right, lets it rip past Dutch 'keeper Verbruggen to send England in to the final. AP

Substitute Ollie Watkins scored a stoppage-time winner to send England through to its second successive European Championship final on Wednesday as it finally turned on the style to beat Netherlands 2-1 on a memorable night.

With the match looking set for extra time, Watkins received a pass from fellow sub Cole Palmer and fired a sweet strike into the far corner. Xavi Simons had brilliantly put the Dutch ahead after seven minutes, with England equalising 11 minutes later with a Harry Kane penalty.

Chances came and went in an all action first half, then things settled in the second before the late drama that sent England to play Spain on Sunday.

Frenetic start

It was a frenetic start as Simons robbed Declan Rice and slammed a screamer into top corner, and though the Orange Wall behind the goal erupted, it proved something of a false dawn.

England levelled when Kane was caught by the studs of Denzel Dumfries as he shot, earning a VAR-reviewed penalty that the England striker drilled into the bottom corner.

They were desperately close to a second five minutes later when Phil Foden brilliantly skipped through a series of tackles almost to the line and when he finally dug out a shot Dumfries was on hand to clear it off the line.

Foden, Jude Bellingham and Bukayo Saka were playing with the swagger that they showed all season for their clubs while the incredible 19-year-old Kobbie Mainoo was running midfield like a veteran.

It was a scarcely believable transformation as the team sent in crosses high and low, attempted probing through balls and even a couple of back heels in the box while forcing Bart Verbruggen into three sprawling saves.

The Dutch threw on striker Wout Weghorst for the second half while England brought on Luke Shaw.

Gareth Southgate took dramatic action by removing Foden and Kane, bringing on Ollie Watkins and Cole Palmer after 80 minutes.

Rare attack

Saka did turn in a low Kyle Walker cross in a rare attack but it was ruled out for offside.

However, Palmer, who has looked dangerous every time he has come on, threaded a pass into the path of Watkins to cue bedlam.

It was heartbreak for the Dutch, who have now lost four semifinals since winning the title in 1988.

The result (second semifinal): Netherlands 1 (Simons 7) lost to England 2 (Kane 18-pen, Watkins 90+1).

Letexier. AFP

Letexier to referee Euro final between Spain and England

Reuters
LONDON

Frenchman Francois Letexier will referee Sunday's European Championship final between Spain and England in Berlin, the UEFA said on Thursday. Letexier, 35, has refereed 65 UEFA matches since 2017, including three Euro 2024 group stage games between Spain and Georgia, Denmark and Serbia and Croatia and Albania.

"Letexier will be joined by French assistants Cyril Mugnier and Mehdi Rahmouni, while Szymon Marciniak (Poland) will be the fourth official," UEFA added. "The VAR role has been assigned to Jerome Brisard (France)."

Semifinal exit hard to take for Dutch coach Koeman

Agence France-Presse
DORTMUND

Tough luck: Koeman consoles Netherlands skipper van Dijk after being eliminated in the Euro semifinal. AP

Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman admitted his team's 2-1 Euro 2024 semifinal defeat against England on Wednesday was "hard to accept" after a controversial penalty decision and then a last-gasp Ollie Watkins goal left his team floored.

"I am disappointed about the final result in a match which started really good for us," said Koeman at the Westfalenstadion.

England's penalty came when Kane sent a shot over the bar and was caught on the follow-through by Denzel Dumfries. Contact was minimal and seemingly innocuous, but German referee Felix Zwayer pointed to the spot after coming over to the VAR monitor.

Blame it on VAR

"What can you do as a defender? In my opinion this shouldn't have been a penalty," Koeman complained. "We cannot play properly and that is due to VAR. It breaks football."

Koeman felt his team had been in control after the 35th-minute introduction of midfielder Joey Veerman for the injured Memphis Depay, which allowed it to stem the tide of England attacks.

"We had some difficulties in the midfield to stop the good players like (Jude) Bellingham and (Phil) Foden between the lines," he said. "We didn't control the game. We made some changes to get control back and the feeling was that in the last 20 minutes we were the better team and attacking more. But then came the knockout on 90 minutes. A great goal, and then it's over, and that is difficult to accept."

Koeman, 61, returned for a second spell as Netherlands coach following the 2022 World Cup, when Louis van Gaal took the team to the last eight in Qatar. The run in Germany is its best performance at a European Championship since 2004, when it also went out in the semifinals.

Send-off: President Droupadi Murmu flags off the trophy tour of the Durand Cup at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday. PTI

President Murmu unveils Durand Cup trophies, flags off trophy tour

Sports Bureau

President Draupadi Murmu unveiled the Durand Cup trophies and flagged off the trophy tour ahead of the 133rd edition of the football tournament at the Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi on Wednesday.

The event saw the presence of all three Service chiefs and the CDS, former India football captain Sunil Chhetri, AIFF officials and representatives from the State governments of Assam, Meghalaya, Jharkhand and West Bengal, the co-hosts of this year's competition.

The President alluded to the popularity of football across the world and extended her wishes to participating players.

The 133rd edition will begin in Kolkata on July 27, with Kokrajhar (Assam), Shillong (Meghalaya) and Jamshedpur (Jharkhand) co-hosting games.

Kolkata's Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) is the defending champion, having defeated its traditional rival East Bengal 1-0 last year.

Arshdeep credits Rohit and Bumrah for guiding him at critical junctures

Proud parents: Arshdeep with his father and mother during an interview with the *Sportstar* at his residence in Chandigarh. R.V. MOORTHY

CRICKET

Shayan Acharya
CHANDIGARH

Arshdeep Singh is just two-years old in the international cricket arena, but the fast bowler has already emerged as one of death over specialists in the T20Is.

An architect of India's T20 World Cup win in the West Indies, Arshdeep finished as the joint highest wicket-taker with 17 wickets, the same as Afghanistan's Fazalhaq Farooqi, and earned a lot of praise for keeping calm under pressure.

The youngster, however, believes that a lot of credit goes to captain Rohit Sharma and Jasprit Bumrah for guiding him at the crucial junctures.

"Rohit *bhai* and Jassi *bhai* are legends of the game. They have been dominating the international arena for a long time now. Whenever I have a point, I ask them whether I can implement it. They ensure that my suggestions are taken into account and the field is set accordingly. That helps me focus on the job at hand," Arshdeep told *Sportstar*.

The conversations

"Jassi *bhai* is a unique bowler with a different bowling action, so the things that work for him might not work for others, but he makes it a point to guide me on how to adjust the bounce and even suggest areas *jahan pe ball jaldi* reverse *hoga* (where the ball will reverse quicker). During the World Cup, he told me not to go for swing early on because on those surfaces, the ball won't swing much, so it was better to hit the hard lengths.

"He keeps telling me those things throughout the match and our discussions often get animated because I am a young blood, so at times, I do disagree with him," Arshdeep said with a smile.

However, he learns from his mistakes. A similar incident happened during India's fixture against Afghanistan as well. "The ball was reversing a lot, so he (Bumrah) suggested a few field placements accordingly. But I thought otherwise, and suggested a different field setting. He told me calmly that I should have faith in him and send the fielder to where he was suggesting. I listened to him and bowled in the right areas. As luck would have it, we got an edge and the ball went straight to the fielder, and then, Jassi *bhai* walked up to me with a smile and said, "see, you should have faith in me and just keep bowling in the right areas." It indeed helped," Arshdeep said.

Arshdeep has so far featured in 52 T20Is and six ODIs, and now he hopes to play Test cricket. "Jassi *bhai* keeps telling me that I should play red-ball and I agree with him," he said.

In his journey, Arshdeep has had the backing of Rahul Dravid - first as the coach of India U-19 and later as the head coach of the senior team. "I made it a point to pick his brains and always ask questions about the game – and those conversations have always helped me," he said.

Rare sight

"It was a rare sight to see Rahul sir so emotional after we won the T20 World Cup. It also feels good to see someone of his stature getting the reward – a World Cup title – that he thoroughly deserves for all the effort he has put in over the years. I am glad that we were able to give him a fitting farewell by winning the title."

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE NO. 15/2024 DATE: 05.07.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites to participate in E-Open Tender through IREPS only for supply of following items.

Sl no	Tender No.	Description in brief (Open E-Tenders)	Quantity	Tender Due on
1	30241115	Silent Block for anchor link	9033 Nos	16.07.2024
2	38241327	Side Frame Key for cartridge (R.B)	25320 Nos	16.07.2024
3	38241027	Panel Patch Plate of Size 1500 X 500 X 5 mm	1011 Nos	16.07.2024
4	38241025	Panel Patch Plate of Size 1500 X 320 X 5 mm	2158 Nos	16.07.2024
5	38241030	Panel Patch Plate of Size 320 X 560 X 5 mm	3931 Nos	16.07.2024
6	38241398A	Slack Adjuster Complete, type IRSA 600	545 Nos	22.07.2024
7	30241568	Equalizing Stay complete for lower spring beam	2104 Nos	22.07.2024
8	60248979A	Procurement of various types of PSC sleeper	41267 Nos	24.07.2024
9	29241049	Pressure sensor with accessories for oil circuit transformer	126 Nos	26.07.2024
10	60245245	Elastic rail Clip MK V T-5919	800470 Nos	29.07.2024
11	79241040	Fire Retardant Curtain Fabric for all A.C. coaches	11858 Mtr	06.08.2024
12	77241024	Paint, aluminum brushing for general purpose	27320 Ltr	31.07.2024
13	77241071	Full gloss polyurethane enamel two pack	13900 Ltr	29.07.2024
14	56241088	Electric Point operating machine IRS Type	168 Nos	29.07.2024
15	42245000A	Complete Radiator Assembly suitable for Cummins	6 Nos	29.07.2024
16	40245000A	Complete Radiator Assembly suitable for Greaves	4Nos	29.07.2024
17	45241304	LED Light Fitting for Entrance Doorway type-K	2092 Nos	29.07.2024
18	60245206	Set of Ballast Screens of various sizes	126 Nos	02.08.2024
19	60245314	Tungsten Carbide Tamping Tool Set of 2 types	10 Set	30.07.2024
20	33241361	High tensile AAR-H type tight lock coupler	41 Set	29.07.2024
21	30241250	Kit of Brake Gear Bushes	1545 Set	05.08.2024
22	38241026	Panel Patch Plate of Size 1500 X 850 X 5 mm	768 Nos	27.07.2024
23	38241184A	Air brake hose coupling for Feed Pipe	5223 Set	06.08.2024

Last date of submission of bids : Upto 10:30 Hrs.

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/242/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi**

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. Y/E.29/2024-25/27 Date: 03.07.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
(Re-tender) Modification of OHE for new RUB construction in Mysuru-Chamarajanagar & Mysuru-Yeliur Section.	₹46,93,166.87

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 hrs. on 25.07.2024**

For Details Log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (Traction), Mysuru

PUB/238/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No: EOLB6gates_LC129_LC143, Dated : 06-07-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Provision of dual EOLB at LC 143 (KM 213/200-300) between Hebbal - Banaswadi, LC 129 Devangonthi (KM 325/400-500) in Bengaluru - Jolarpettai Section and EOLB at 6 traffic LC gates over Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 91,63,332.42

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 29-07-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Bengaluru

PUB/251/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE No: HE-TRD-2024-25-OT-15 Dated: 05.07.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Item of work	Approx. value
OHE works for track renewals works like CTR, TRR, TTR, TSR, TWR AND TBR in Hubballi Division	Rs. 2,39,55,098.96

Last date of submission of bids: **Upto 13:00 Hrs. on 02.08.2024**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, Hubballi

PUB/244/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client intends to purchase the immovable residential property, all that piece and parcel of house property bearing No. 184/23 (519), 2nd Main, 1st Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-11, PID No. 62-122-23, measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 45 feet together with the existing Building with all amenities

which is more fully described in the schedule here in below for valuable consideration from its original owner **Sri AKHILESH SURESH**, that if any person has any right title or right to claim over the schedule property they may come forward with the original documents and provide the manner of right, title in writing with the under sign, within **15 days** from today, on failure of any such objection/claim being received our client shall proceed with intended sale transaction and shall be deemed that no one has any right to claim over the schedule property right that may exist is waived off.

SCHEDULE

All that piece & parcel of immovable Property Bearing **No. 184/23 (519), 2nd Main, 1st Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru- 11,** PID No. 62-122-23, measuring East to West: **40 feet** and North to South: **45 feet** together with the existing Building with all amenities and bounded on the: -

EAST BY : Property No.236
WEST BY : 10TH B Main Road,
NORTH BY : Property No. 183,
SOUTH BY : Property No. 185.

GP Rao and Associates
#76, Murthy Building, 3rd Floor, D.V.G Road, Nettakallappa Circle, Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560004
Tel-26621124 / 9343323453

Date : 11-07-2024 **Place :** Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Smt. S.Bhagya W/o Venkatesh. D** resident of M.C. Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore, intends to purchase the below mentioned schedule property from its owner **Sri Prasanna Babu.N** and his family members residing at Magadi Road, Bangalore. If any person/s or financial institutions having any right, title over the schedule property may kindly be file their objection within **7 days** today along with supporting documents. Otherwise my client will conclude the sale transaction. **SCHEDULE :** Vacant site No. 7, PID No. 38-63-7 situated at **3rd A Main Road, Bairaveshwara-nagar, Nagarabhavi Main Road, Bangalore,** measuring East to West 27 Feet and North to South 48 feet totally measuring **1296 Sq.feet** & bounded on:- **East by : Municipal No. 58, West by : Site No. 18, North by : Private Property, South by : Road.**

(C.M.RAGHUNATH) Advocate.
No.6/1, Sri Subramanyaswamy Temple Street, Kumarapark West Bangalore-560020
Mob : 9986022999 / 9448457995

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE No: HE-TRD-2024-25-OT-19 Dated: 05.07.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Item of work	Approx. value
Comprehensive Annual Maintenance of SCADA system for ASHIDA make remote terminal units of Ballari-Rayadurg as per RDSO Specification No. I/SPC/RCC/SCADA/0133 for 4 years.	Rs. 4,64,000/-

Last date of submission of bids: **Upto 13:00 Hrs. on 02.08.2024**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, Hubballi

PUB/245/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Auction for leasing of Manning, Maintenance and Management of Parking Facilities Integrated with Access Control / Maintenance and Operation of Radio / Call / App-Based Taxis and Autos in the earmarked area at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal.

A) Description : Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru Division of South Western Railway, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites bidders for E-Auctions on the following dates:

18.07.2024 : Contract for Manning, Maintenance and Management of Parking Facilities Integrated with Access Control at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal, Bengaluru Railway Station, Bengaluru Division, South Western Railway.

19.07.2024 : Contract for Maintenance and Operation of Radio / Call / App - Based Taxis and Autos in the earmarked area at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal, Bengaluru Railway Station, Bengaluru Division, South Western Railway.

Pre-Bid Meeting for above contracts : 12 July, 2024 (15:30 hrs)

Location : Divisional Railway Manager Office Ground Floor, Chamber of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, South Western Railway Bengaluru - 560023.

B) Terms and Conditions :

1. The Standard Conditions and special conditions of E-Auction can be downloaded from the website **www.ireps.gov.in**

2. Please check the auction schedule in the website for any additions / changes to the schedule.

PUB/250/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru**

South Western Railway - SWR southwesternrailway_swr SWRRLY southwesternrailway SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE No. Y/E.29/2024-25/28 Dt: 03.07.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the work	Approx. value
(Re-tender) 1) SSE/P.Way/ASK-Construction of Gang tool cum rest room - 13 Nos. - Electrical arrangements. 2) Provision of submersible pump set at thirteen locations - Electrical arrangements. Allocation: 29-3176-03 IRPSM ID: 14.03.31.18.6.00.015	Rs. 52,89,011/-

Last date of submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 25-07-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) Mysuru

PUB/239/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No: CAO/CN/BNC/EPC/17/2024 Dated : 05-07-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) for Construction of new Broad Gauge Railway line between Chainage 12/800 & Chainage 30/500 including Civil works, Signal & Telecommunication works and Electrical General services between Urukere (Excl.) and Koratagere (Incl.) stations and Railway Electrification between Tumakuru (0/000) & Koratagere (30/500) in Tumakuru - Rayadurga New Line Project. **(Tender Ref. No.: TK-RDG-EPC-02)**	Rs. 235,96,54,354/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 04-10-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction / Works Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/254/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Public Works Division, Chh.Sambhajinagar
E-Tender Notice No. 60 Of 2023-2024
Corrigendum No-1

E- Tender for the following works in B-2 Form" for the **(Construction of Collector Office Building at Vishwas Nagar (Labour Colony) Chh.Sambhajinagar Tq. And Dist. Chh.Sambhajinagar)** Works is invited via online E-Tendering system from Contractor/Agency/Firm/Company of Eligible Class by Executive Engineer Public Works Division Aurangabad (PH No.0240-2331174) on behalf of Public Works Department of Government of Maharashtra.

All details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-Tendering Portal https://mahatenders.gov.in on sub Portal of public works Department also on www.mahapwd.com portal as per online tender Schedules.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division
Chh.Sambhajinagar

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Chief Commissioner, Annex Building-1, BBMP Head Office, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002.

No: BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/912/2024-25 **FORM I** **Date: 10-07-2024**

NOTIFICATION

{Under Sec 14B (4) (i)}

In exercise of powers conferred under section 14-B (4) of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act 1961 the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by The CHIEF COMMISSIONER, BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE for **Construction and Formation of Connecting 18.00m wide road from Neha Prakash Hospital to Attur Ananthapura main road in Ward no-03 of Yelahanka Satellite town sub division.** It is hereby informed to the land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose, to appear and submit their claims along with the copies of the relevant documents viz, (i) Sale/Partition / other deeds of title, (ii) Up-to-date RTC's (iii) Mutation Copy (iv) Tax paid receipts (v) conversion order of Non agriculture purpose (vi) Revenue sketch (vii) Akar band etc., in person in the place within thirty days from the date of publication of this notification as indicated in the address below and state their respective interest in such land.

The place where land owners/interested persons have to appear and submit their claims	Name and address of the Divisional/ Sub divisional/branch offices	Date and Time
The Deputy Commissioner (LAQ & TDR) Room No: 208, 2 Floor, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, Bangalore-560002.	Executive Engineer Road Infrastructure, Yalahanka Division, BBMP	30 days from the date of Notification Time: 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM

The land owners / interested parties of the scheduled properties whose lands are to the acquired shall give the consent for Grant of Development Rights to the Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike.

The land owners shall receive twice the area of land surrendered in lieu of monetary compensation as DR (Notional land) and two time the building area surrendered as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered divided by the Market value of the land on which the building is constructed. The Notional land can be utilized by factorizing with the market value at the originating plot and receiving plot. The Notional land is eligible for FAR and can be used as additional built up area at the receiving plot as per the terms and conditions prescribed in the Benefit of Development Rights Rules, 2016.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Rights Certificates (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition Officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (LAQ & TDR), BBMP within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

SCHEDULE

"Acquisition of land required **Construction and Formation of Connecting 18.00m wide road from Neha Prakash Hospital to Attur Ananthapura main road in Ward no-03 of Yelahanka Satellite town sub division.**

Name of the District : **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk : **Bengaluru North** Name of the Village : **Atturu**

Sl. No.	Sy. No/ Khatha No.	Type of land: Vacant	Type of land: Built up	Nature of Land: Agriculture	Nature of Land: Converted undeveloped	Nature of Land: Approved Layout/ developed Land Building Site	Dimension of the land / plot & Extent in Sq.m.: Dimension	Dimension of the land / plot & Extent in Sq.m.: Extent	Boundaries of the land / plot: North	Boundaries of the land / plot: South	Boundaries of the land / plot: East	Boundaries of the land / plot: West	Building Details: Extent in Sq.m	Building Details: Type of Construction and No. of floors	Building Details: Floor area Ratio	Present activity on land/ Building (Specify Specific activity such as shop, office. factory apartment, individual house etc.	Market (guidelines) value of the land per Sq.m.: Agriculture/B-Khatha	Market (guidelines) value of the land per Sq.m.: Converted Undeloped	Market (guidelines) value of the land per Sq.m.: Developed Site	Name and address of the owner of the plot / land for which DRC is to be issued
1	Sy.No. 82	Vacant					1,174.49		Remaining Portion of Sy.No.82	Remaining Portion of Sy.No.82	Sy.No.76	Road	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Rangalakshmi @ Rangalakshmamma W/o N.Devaraj and M.S Mahadevaiah S/o Shivanna
2	Sy.No. 76	Vacant/Building					958.25		Remaining Portion of Sy.No.76	Remaining Portion of Sy.No.76	Sy.No.75	Sy.No.82	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	M.S Mahadevaiah S/o Shivanna
3	Sy.No. 75	Vacant/Building					1,156.81		Remaining Portion of Sy.No.75	Remaining Portion of Sy.No.75	Sy.No.68	Sy.No.76	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	M.S Mahadevaiah S/o Shivanna
4	Sy.No. 68	Vacant/Building					423.83		Remaining Portion of Sy.No.68	Road & Sy.No.67	Sy.No.65/3	Sy.No.75	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	M.S Mahadevaiah S/o Shivanna
5	Khatha No. 332/ 66 & 67	Vacant					2,632.68		Road, Sy No.75, 65/3, 68, 65/4A & 65/4B	Sy.No.45	Sy.No.66	Sy.No.76 & 83	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Arun B. Ranka
6	Sy.No. 65/3	Vacant					568.83		Remaining portion of Sy. No. 65/3	Road & Sy.No.67	Sy.No.65/4A	Sy.No.68	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Naveen A Shrikantaiah S/o Late. A.M. Srikantaiah and A.S. Anandh S/o Late A.M. Srikantaiah
7	Sy.No. 65/4A	Vacant/Building					274.00		Remaining portion of Sy. No. 65/4A	Road & Sy.No.67	Sy.No.65/4B	Sy.No.65/3	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	M.V. Muniraju S/o M. Venkatesh
8	Sy.No. 65/4B	Vacant					248.08		Remaining portion of Sy. No. 65/4B	Sy.No.66 & Sy. No.67	Sy.No.65/5	Sy.No.65/4A	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Mohammadh Ayub Ali S/o Mohammadh Sadath Ali
9	Sy.No. 65/5	Vacant					131.40		Remaining portion of Sy. No. 65/5	Road & Sy.No.66	Sy.No.65/6	Sy.No.65/4A & Sy. No.65/4B	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Surerdar Singh S/o Tejveer Singh
10	Sy.No. 65/6	Vacant					24.75		Remaining portion of Sy. No. 65/6	Road & Sy.No.66	Sy.No.65/7	Sy.No.65/5	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Rajanna and Chandrashekar
11	Sy.No. 65/7	Vacant					70.61		Remaining portion of Sy. No. 65/7	Road & Sy.No.66	Sy.No. 11	Sy.No.65/6	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Rajanna and Chandrashekar
12	Khatha No. 332/66 & 67	Vacant					2,977.70		Remaining portion of Sy. No. 65/5, Sy. No. 65/4B, Sy. No. 65/6, Sy. No. 65/7	Remaining portion of Sy.No.66	Sy.No. 10	Sy.No.67 & Sy. No. 65/4B	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Arun B. Ranka
13	Sy.No. 10	Vacant					159.64		Remaining portion of Sy. No. 10	Remaining portion of Sy. No. 10 & Road	Road	Sy.No.66	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Jaswanthraj, K. Nanjegowda S/o Kempaiah and Government Property

Total Extent to be acquired (in Sq.mt.) 10801.06

The market value of land shall be subject to land conversion and development status to be decided at Form-III sage based on production of documents from the Land owners.

- The Building extent shall be verified at the time of From-III Public Notice stage based on the Building valuation and Benefits of Development Rights Rules, 2016.

Sd/-

Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Aditi has a good chance to win a medal in Paris: Kapil

The PGTI president says that there is a severe dearth of quality international-level golf courses in India and that he would go all out to woo corporates to invest in the sport and improve it

GOLF

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's leading golfer Aditi Ashok can go one step further and win a medal at the Paris Olympics provided her form does not betray her in pressure situations, feels legendary cricketer and newly appointed PGTI president Kapil Dev.

Aditi won hearts by finishing fourth at the Tokyo Olympics after being in the medal contention till the very end.

She finished a stroke behind the bronze medallist Lydia Ko and two strokes behind gold winner Nelly Korda. Aditi's form deserted her on the final day after she was second overnight.

Words of wisdom: World Cup winner and PGTI president, Kapil Dev believes Aditi can clinch a medal if she embraces the pressure. AP

Embrace the pressure

"I want to see Aditi playing with the same pomp that she played with in the Tokyo Olympics. For cricketers and golfers, form is very important.

"If Aditi plays in the same form, she has a good chance to win a medal. And if she has a bad week, then she can only sit out and rue the loss," said Kapil.

The World Cup winning captain, who has been playing on the PGTI circuit for many years, felt there was a severe dearth of quality international-level golf courses in India.

"In India, there is a catch-22 situation. You have to have good golf courses up to international standards with top tournaments and people playing golf in tougher conditions and scoring well. Some of the courses in India have to improve also and give the players a chance to play in decent courses.

"I have seen people playing 20 under 19 under 18 under but conditions may not be as good as we would like to have.

"Somebody who has played in DLF Gurgaon or Oxford, and hit 15 or 20 under, then you can say that's the different level you have played."

On his vision and priorities after assuming office as PGTI president, he said: "My first vision is to bring money to golf and more golf to the players. At the moment they play 15 or 20 weeks a year. If we can make it 30-35 weeks a year... that's the vision.

Need for investment

"The only way it can happen is if more sponsors come in. So I would like more tours and tournaments to take place.

"I will open the door for many companies and the corporate world to come out and promote golf.

"Golf is slightly different because every person has to earn their own money. In cricket, the board decides the fees.

"Start talking to the corporate world if they can come and organise more golf tournaments. That's the immediate plan. I am not the lone golfer who played the game.

"I can't say I am the one who will lead it. Yes, I will try and help a lot of golfers in the country and bring more corporates into the game," he emphasised.

Dressel ready to defend his laurels in Paris after hiatus from swimming

SWIMMING

Agence France-Presse
LOS ANGELES

Comeback: Dressel will look to get back to his glory days after his break. GETTY IMAGES

Caeleb Dressel knows the age-group days of "simply swimming" can never return for a seven-time Olympic gold medallist.

But despite devastating lows that drove him away from the sport for the better part of a year and admitted uncertainty over whether he'll ever return to his best, the 27-year-old American once touted as the heir to Michael Phelps is ready to test himself again at the Paris Olympics.

"I don't know what's possible," Dressel said after a rollercoaster US trials, where he won the 50m free and 100m butterfly to earn a chance to defend two of his three individual titles from the pandemic-delayed Tokyo Games.

He missed out in the 100m free – finishing third behind up-and-comers Chris Guiliano and Jack Alexy in a blistering final that put Dressel in the mix for a relay berth.

It's a far cry from his build-up to Tokyo, when he went into the Games as the two-time reigning World champion in all three of his individual events and emerged with five golds to cement an Olympic legacy that began when he earned two relay golds in Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

But Dressel's pursuit of perfection came at a price, and he stepped away abruptly at the 2022 World Championships, later speaking candidly of feeling mentally "broken" by the demands he put on himself.

"I would love if I could get back to the point where I was five years old," Dressel said. "It was simply swimming, that's all it was. You were just swimming, there wasn't any media, you didn't care how you felt ... that's what drew me into the sport and there's things that I've put up with that I don't like or things about the sport that I hate."

That included comparisons to Phelps, who earned 23 gold medals over five Olympic campaigns and established himself as the standard bearer for the sport not just in the United States but globally.

"I get it, trying to find the next guy," Dressel said. "But I have said multiple times I'm not Michael, at all, and I'm fine with admitting that.

"I think I'm pretty damn good at what I do. And I've exceeded a lot of my expectations in the sport, and I have drained the talent that I have, and I'm still continuing to do that.

"I don't know if I'll ever go a best time ever again, and that's tough to say out loud, it really is," said the American.

"When you're 19, 20, 21, you keep chipping away, chipping away, chipping away. I'm still working harder than ever, finding outlets, finding every path I can take to shave those couple tenths.

"I'm really good at racing. You put me in a race, I will make it close, as close as I possibly can, even if I have to try to kill myself to get there."

Anthony Nesty, who won the 100m butterfly at the 1988 Olympics for Suriname, is currently coaching Dressel. He is also buoyed by the support of his wife Meghan. The couple welcomed the birth of their first child, August, in February.

"Meghan knows what goes into this, not just the parenting side of things but she gets to see firsthand the struggles that come with the sport," Dressel said. "The tears that come with it, the frustration and then also the high points, and getting to share that with them, because they go through that as well."

Dressel also felt the support of fans that made his third Olympic trials a "totally different experience" to "bombing" as a youngster at his first trials, making the team in a "nerve-wracking" 2016 and then seeing his face plastered everywhere before Tokyo.

"The crowd, feeling the love from everybody, that's something new," he said.